

**COLUMN**  
Batling Thai girlfriends qualify for games

### Israel demands closure of offices at Orient House

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli government on Friday demanded the closure of two offices at Orient House, the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in East Jerusalem. In a message to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Foreign Minister David Levy demanded the closure of the office of youth sports and the office which monitors Israeli construction in occupied Jerusalem, Israel Radio said. Mr. Levy also demanded that a training centre in the Arab district of Shufat in East Jerusalem no longer be used by Palestinian security services, the radio added. The Orient House has been a thorny issue between the Palestinians and Israel, which sees the office as a threat to its claim of sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

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### Perry to visit S. Arabia for talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Defence Secretary William Perry was to travel to Saudi Arabia to discuss plans to move U.S. forces to safer locations and other security issues with Saudi leaders, Pentagon officials said Friday. The talks were expected to include U.S. insistence on close cooperation in the investigation of the June 25 truck bombing in Dhahran that killed 19 Americans, the officials said. Mr. Perry planned to go to Saudi Arabia from Australia, where he was visiting Friday, said the officials, who spoke on condition they not be identified. The New York Times reported that Mr. Perry would be seeking Saudi financial support for the movement of U.S. forces to Al Kharij, a remote air base in the desert southeast of Riyadh.

## Israel seals off West Bank after killing of two Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel on Friday re-imposed a total blockade on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after Palestinian militants shot dead an Israeli man and his daughter-in-law inside the Jewish state, the army announced.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered security forces to use the most sophisticated means available "to do everything to find the commandos who carried out this attack," Israel Radio said.

And he called on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to "fight against all groups preaching terrorism" even those which are part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But Mr. Arafat said he had no information about the drive-by shooting which happened before dawn Friday on the road between Beit Shemesh and Kfar Zakariya, south of Jerusalem, within Israel.

He condemned the renewed closure of the occupied territories as "another breach of what has been agreed on" referring to the autonomy accords between Israel and the Palestinians.

Guns in a white Subaru sprayed another car with automatic gun fire



An Israeli border-policeman denies a Palestinian family entry into Jerusalem at the Bethlehem roadblock Friday after Israel sealed off the West Bank following the killing of two Israelis in a drive-by shooting by suspected Palestinian gunmen (Reuters photo)

from Kalashnikov rifles and pistols as they overtook before speeding away. The attack took place just 20 kilometres from the West Bank, and police said the car was hit by 20 bullets.

Uri Munk, 60, and his daughter-in-law Rachel Munk, 25, were killed

while Munk's son Zeev, 30, was seriously wounded and said by doctors to be in a critical condition.

He was taken to the Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv along with his mother Aliza Munk who escaped injury but was in shock.

Following that attack

carried out at 1 a.m. Friday (2200 GMT) in which two Israeli civilians were killed, a general closure was imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, an army spokesman said.

The attackers have not been identified but security forces suspect they are mil-

itants from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) who sneaked into Israel from the West Bank.

"All the Palestinians who were on Israeli territory this morning have been ordered

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## Ross holds 'useful talks' in Amman U.S. envoy says Arabs, Israelis seeking peace

By Mervat Suwadeh with agency dispatches

U.S. ENVOY Dennis Ross held talks Friday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and praised the "strong commitment" of Israel and the Palestinians to overcome their differences.

"There is a very strong commitment on both sides to find ways to solve the problem," said Mr. Ross, who is on a Middle East tour aimed at jump-starting the peace process.

Mr. Arafat praised Mr. Ross' efforts to get stalled peace negotiations moving again after the two met in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Mr. Ross left for Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas Thursday after a two-day visit to the Kingdom during which he held what he described as "useful talks" with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior Jordanian officials on ways to break the stalemate in the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

"We obviously want to strengthen the nature of our relations in terms of U.S.-Jordanian bilateral ties," Mr. Ross told reporters before leaving for Israel. Mr. Ross, whose trip

comes amid a flurry of diplomatic activity in the region aimed at reviving the frozen Arab-Israeli peace talks, reiterated Washington's commitment to the principles of the Middle East peace process, but stressed that the U.S. will not put any pressure on Israel to accept the land-for-peace formula.

He said his country will continue to work with peace partners to find the best ways for reviving the stalled peace process.

"We cannot impose anything," he said. "Ultimately it is not the United States that decides, the parties can decide for themselves, the parties are the ones that will reach agreements," Mr. Ross told reporters.

He said "what we can do is find the ways to work with the parties in the region to promote the chance to make progress."

The U.S. State Department Middle East coordinator met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday to try to ease obstacles blocking a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks, suspended since a wave of militant bombings in Israel in February and March. Mr. Ross said that Arabs and Israelis realised they had no alternative but to move forward on peace following the

election of a hardline Israeli government in May.

"The reality is that there is a desire from everyone that I have spoken to find a way to produce peace," Mr. Ross told reporters.

"It is the recognition of the absence of an alternative and the commitment to go ahead that gives me the basis for hope," he said.

Mr. Ross, who held talks in Syria before arriving in Jordan Wednesday, told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday that Syria wanted to further peace efforts and learn more about the new Israeli government.

Mr. Ross met Mr. Netanyahu on Thursday in Jerusalem after he held talks in Syria with President Hafez Al Assad.

"He (Mr. Ross) said President Assad of Syria desired to further the peace process and that Assad was interested in learning more about Israel's new government and about Prime Minister Netanyahu," a statement issued by Mr. Netanyahu's office said after the meeting.

"Ross added that Assad was still in the process of taking decisions and was interested to know on what basis negotiations with Israel could be furthered."

(Continued on page 3)

### Hijacked Iberia jet lands in Miami

MIAMI (R) — An Iberia Airlines DC-10 jet believed to have 231 people on board landed safely at Miami international airport on Friday after a hijacker rerouted it on a flight from Madrid to Havana. Police and other officials at the airport initially stayed away from the plane after it taxied from the runway, and local television reported that the hijacker had asked to surrender. Police and federal aviation administration officials confirmed that Iberia Airlines Flight 6621 from Madrid to Havana was rerouted to Miami after it was hijacked.

### Arafat to visit S. Arabia

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is to visit Saudi Arabia on Sunday for talks with King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah, Mr. Arafat's spokesman said. During his two-day stay, Mr. Arafat will discuss the "latest developments concerning the Palestinian question," said Nabil Abu Rudeina.

### Bundestag president ends visit

AQABA (Petra) — President of German Parliament (Bundestag) Rita Süssmuth left Jordan Friday after a four-day visit during which she was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarini, acting Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zeid Rifa'i, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour and other senior Jordanian officials.

## PNA warns against expanding settlements

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leaders warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday he could face an uprising in the territories if he goes ahead with plans to expand Jewish settlements.

"Palestinian society will revolt if Netanyahu's settlement programme is put into action. None of the Palestinians will accept the construction of new settlements or land seizures," said Local Government Minister in the Palestine National Authority (PNA) Saeh Erekat.

"This is not a threat, just a prognosis. The issue of the settlements will bring Palestinian society to the boiling point," he told the Israeli daily Haaretz.

He added the U.S. administration of President Bill

Clinton had promised the Palestinian Authority to tell Israel that Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories posed a danger to the peace process.

"The Americans know that the settlements are a time-bomb which could explode any moment," Dr. Erekat said, adding "settlements are incompatible with peace. I hope Netanyahu will put the accent on peace and take it seriously."

The Israeli government had been due to hold its first debate on the settlements at Friday's weekly cabinet meeting, but it was postponed until next week.

According to aides, Mr. Netanyahu is aiming initially to increase the size of existing settlements on the West Bank and give fresh

impetus to building by-pass roads for settlers around areas under Palestinian self-rule.

The programme is a significant turnaround from the policies of the previous Labour-led governments which from 1992 under the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin and his successor Shimon Peres froze all settlement building except around Jerusalem.

The decision to postpone the cabinet debate came just ahead of the arrival of U.S. envoy Dennis Ross in Jerusalem for talks with Mr. Netanyahu aimed at reviving the faltering peace process.

The United States has not hidden its fears that any new settlement programme in the occupied territories

could pose a major obstacle to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

But Mr. Netanyahu has refused to be swayed and during a trip to

Washington earlier this month insisted on the Jews' right to settle in the occupied territories.

Initially, he plans to boost the number of settlers by 50,000 — more than a third of the 140,000 currently living on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 140 settlements — by earmarking an extra 1,500 empty flats to settlers and authorising construction within the existing settlements, reports said.

According to the Maariv daily, some 7,000 new homes are also planned for around Jerusalem.

## 2 engines found in sea as TWA crash probe analyses flight data

EAST MORICHES, New York (AFP) — Navy divers found two engines from last week's fatal TWA crash, authorities said Friday, as investigators worked to decipher a mysterious noise heard just before the jet exploded and crashed.

Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), called the discovery "extraordinarily important," but had no details on the condition of the engines and could not say when they would be lifted to the surface.

Mr. Francis reiterated that the government's top priority is recovering bodies, and he announced that 138

corpses had now been brought to the surface from the wreckage of TWA Flight 800, which exploded over the Atlantic off New York July 17.

Meanwhile, attention focused on a mysterious noise found on the "black box" cockpit voice recorder, which was being analysed in Washington. The sound lasted just a "brief fraction of a second" before, abruptly ending 11-1/2 minutes after the plane left New York bound for Paris, Mr. Francis said.

By analysing the tape in conjunction with the flight technical data recorder and other information, investigators are hoping to determine what caused the plane

to explode in midair and crash, killing all 230 aboard.

Investigators will record the frequency of the sound and match it to sounds heard in other planes that were downed by bombs. "An explosion would have a lot of the components of low-frequency sound," said Richard Stone, president of the International Society of Air Safety Investigators. A high-frequency sound would be more indicative of an equipment failure that led to decompression, he said.

"They ought to be able to make a judgement that this sound was consistent with a blast or it was consistent with a break-up," former

NTSB investigator Chuck Leonard said.

For purposes of comparison, investigators have available voice recorders from Pan Am Flight 103 that crashed over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 and Air India Flight 182 that crashed off the Irish coast in 1985.

Without explicitly saying so, investigators seem more inclined to the theory that sabotage brought down Flight 800. Federal Bureau of Investigation Assistant Director James Kallstrom said the crash had yet to be classified as a criminal investigation, but that the FBI had not "discounted

(Continued on page 7)

## Accusations on Libya sanctions 'groundless'

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordan Friday denied accusations that it was flouting U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya since 1992. "Jordan is at the forefront of states adhering to international laws and U.N. resolutions," a Jordanian official was quoted as saying. The official made no further comments on the news that a document detailing alleged violations of the embargo had been sent to the United Nations on Wednesday by the United States, Britain and France.

The document was compiled after a worldwide investigation launched in March by Washington, Paris and London and named eight countries including Jordan, Egypt and China which were allegedly breaking the U.N. air and military embargo imposed on Tripoli. The investigation found that in some cities the number of Libyan diplomats had increased, contrary to the embargo. The report highlighted that in Amman and Cairo the offices of the Libyan Arab Airlines had been allowed to stay open and staffed in violation of the sanctions. Sanctions were slapped on Libya after it refused to hand over to either Britain or the United States two Libyans accused of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed.

## De Charette urges new peace drive

PARIS (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, just back from a Middle East tour, warned Friday that further delay in the peace process could enhance the danger of terrorism in the region.

If the present slow-down in Middle East diplomacy continued, he said, "there could be risks to the region: political risks and terrorist risks."

In an interview appearing Saturday in the Paris daily Le Figaro, Mr. de Charette stressed France's active role in Middle East diplomacy.

"The French position in the peace process is a middle-of-the-road one," he said. "We are not advocates of one side against the other...this balanced attitude means that all parties listen to us."

Mr. de Charette quoted Palestinian President Yasser Arafat as telling him at their meeting in Gaza this week: "France must intervene to save the peace process."

Mr. de Charette's Middle East trip, aimed at promoting France's diplomatic role in the region, took him to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian autonomous territories.

He told Le Figaro that after his visit to Damascus he was convinced "the Syrian leadership wishes to achieve a peace settlement with Israel."

It would be unrealistic to suppose that the Lebanese and Syrian questions could be resolved separately, he added.

## Arafat and Assad vow to work for peace

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ended a landmark visit to Syria on Friday after vowing in talks here to work with Damascus for Middle East peace.

Syrian spokesman Jubran Kuriyeh said late Thursday that Mr. Arafat and President Hafez Al Assad had held four hours of talks on "inter-Arab relations, the situation in the region after the Arab summit in June and recent developments."

They also discussed efforts to implement the resolutions of the Cairo summit as well as the issue of Jerusalem and the situation in the Palestinian territories, Mr. Kuriyeh said.

The Palestinian leader had last set foot in Syria shortly before the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed the declaration of principles in September 1993 launching Palestinian autonomy a year later.

Mr. Arafat also held talks with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa after arriving in Syria on Thursday to mend ties with Damascus and agree future moves for peace talks with Israel, officials said.

In a statement to reporters, Mr. Arafat said he was pleased to visit Syria "to listen to the valuable advice from President Assad on how to confront the challenges facing us not only as Palestinians but also as Arabs."

(Continued on page 7)



## Shin Bet hit by scandal as agent admits crushing skulls of Palestinian detainees

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A scandal has erupted in Israel amid revelations by a secret service agent that on orders from the top he coolly bashed in the heads of two Palestinians with a rock after a bus hijacking.

The daily Yediot Aharonot, which has whetted appetites for the revelations by trickling out excerpts of an interview with Shin Bet agent Ehud Yatom over the past few days, on Friday published in full his version of events on April 12, 1984.

Mr. Yatom, 48, who is leaving the internal security agency Shin Bet after 24 years service, voiced no regret for the killing and said he was proud of his actions.

But the Association for Civil Rights in Israel said they were shocked by the revelations and that Mr.

Yatom has managed to rise up through the Shin Bet ranks despite the killings.

"His brutal act, which he carried out under orders from the then head of the (Shin Bet), the false testimony of those involved in the episode and the deliberate attempt to obstruct the investigation are blatant violations of human rights and the rule of law in Israel," the association said in a statement.

"Killing prisoners, even if they are terrorists, is a grave crime and those responsible should have been punished. Instead after being pardoned by then President Haim Herzog, Ehud Yatom was promoted."

The leader of the left-wing Meretz Party Yossi Sarid said that Mr. Yatom was "the vermin of Israeli society, the rotten apple with a military mentality,

devoid of values. "All those who didn't understand at the time why those responsible should not have been pardoned must now realise," he added.

The two Palestinians, along with two others, had hijacked a bus as it left Tel Aviv. They were captured alive after Israeli commandos stormed the bus near the Egyptian border while their two accomplices were killed on the spot.

It was not until two years later however that an official inquiry revealed that the pair had been later killed in cold blood on the orders of the then Shin Bet chief, Avraham Shalom.

The scandal shook Shin Bet but the 11 agents involved escaped unscathed with a presidential pardon. Some were defended by lawyer Yaakov Neeman, who is now the Israeli jus-

tice minister. "Mr. Yatom told Yediot Aharonot that 'I crushed their skulls with a large rock. It was not too difficult because they were already dying.'"

When the Palestinians were handed over they were seriously wounded, full of blood... I described it then as two sacks of potatoes," he added.

Mr. Yatom, who is the brother of current chief of the Mossad external security services Danny Yatom, said Shin Bet had planned if necessary to cover its tracks by implicating the leader of the parachute team which stormed the bus — Yitzhak Mordechai, currently defence minister.

According to Israeli radio, current Shin Bet chief Ami Ayalon has asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to prosecute Mr. Yatom for violating state secrets.

"What Yatom did is a betrayal of the organisation as a whole," a former agent told Yediot Aharonot. But lawyers said Mr. Yatom had used a loophole in the law.

A draft bill is being drawn up by the justice ministry setting out a five-year prison sentence for giving away secrets even once an agent has left the organisation or retired. But the bill has not yet been passed into law.

"The whole episode proves the necessity of establishing standards in law for the conduct for (Shin Bet) and for instituting public oversight. Until now the (Shin Bet) does not operate in any established legal framework and is not subjected to substantial scrutiny by the Knesset," the Civil Rights Association said.



ISRAELI POLICEMAN ORDERS PALESTINIANS BACK: An Israeli border policeman guides two elderly Palestinian men back to the West Bank after they were denied entry to Jerusalem at the Bethlehem roadblock Friday. Israel sealed off the West Bank following the killing of two Israelis in a drive-by shooting by suspected Palestinian gunmen (Reuters photo).

## Woman dies in Bahrain after son's arrest

BANI JAMRA, Bahrain (R) — A 54-year-old Shi'ite Muslim woman has died from heart failure after trying to prevent Bahraini police from arresting her son, witnesses said on Thursday.

They said the incident occurred after security forces entered the Shi'ite village of Bani Jamra, 10 kilometres west of the capital Manama, on Tuesday night after reports of anti-government unrest by young Shi'ite men who started fires.

Three men were arrested, including Zahra Ibrahim's 16-year-old son Ahmad, the witnesses said.

When she saw the police forces bundling her son into their car, she ran after them shouting and pleading "leave my son, leave my son," the witnesses told Reuters. The security forces replied with tear-gas and rubber bullets and pushed her away with their rifle butts, they added.

Zahra, who already suffered from heart problems, collapsed and died shortly after the incident, the witnesses said.

Police released the son the next morning at the family's request to allow him to attend his mother's funeral.

Government officials denied "the woman was harmed but said investigations were continuing into the incident."

## 3,200-year-old Canaanite clay tablets found

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Archaeologists have uncovered three clay tablets that were inscribed more than 3,200 years ago and may have been part of the royal archives of the largest Canaanite city-state in the region, a published report said Friday.

Inscribed in Accadian Cuneiform script, the

tablets stemmed from the late Canaanite period (1550 B.C. to 1200 B.C.) — the period described in the Biblical books of Genesis and Exodus, said the Haaretz daily.

The report said archaeologists found the match-box-sized tablets while digging at the site of a Canaanite palace at Tel Hazor in northern Israel.

Haaretz did not say what was written on the tablets.

Archaeologist Amnon Ben-Tor of Hebrew University, who is leading the dig, refused comment on the report Friday. He has called a news conference for Monday.

The Haaretz report said archaeologists hope the tablets are part of royal archives in the palace,

which they believe may have been in the room adjacent to where the tablets were found and which has not yet been excavated.

Few writings from that period of history have been uncovered in the region, and the finds could fill in much missing information about the Canaanite era.

## FIS says Belgium responsible for death of leader who sought refuge

PARIS (R) — Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) guerrilla group said on Friday that one of its leaders who sought refuge in Belgium but was expelled back to Algeria was tortured to death on his arrival.

A FIS statement said Said Ben Othman, a member of the group's leadership in the Mostaganem area of Algeria, died under torture after being expelled from Belgium to Algeria on July 15.

FIS said Mr. Ben Othman asked for but was denied political asylum by Belgium. "FIS considers Belgium... carries full responsibility for his suffering and his murder," the statement received in Paris said.

FIS is one of two powerful clandestine Muslim fundamentalist movements seeking to overthrow Algeria's military-led government.

In another development on Thursday, Algerian security forces arrested a lone hijacker who seized an Air Algérie plane. All 232 passengers were safe, the Algerian Interior Ministry said.

"The affair of the Air Algérie Boeing 767, which was prevented from taking off by an individual from Oran's Es Senia airport, has had a happy ending," the official Algerian news agency APS quoted a ministry statement as saying.

The statement said all passengers were safe and the hijacker, who was unarmed, was arrested.

The motive for the hijacking, the first in Algeria in nearly two years, was not known. Algerian state television said earlier the hijacker was an Algerian national but did not name him.

The interior ministry said earlier that the hijacker seized the state airline's Boeing 767 at Oran's Es Senia airport at around 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) and prevented it from taking off on a domestic flight to Algiers.

The ministry, whose security forces have been fighting Muslim fundamentalists for more than four years, said the hijacker's motives and nationality were unknown. Security forces cordoned

off the airport in the western city, some 375 kilometres west of the capital, Algiers.

Pilots at Air Algérie have been staging a series of weekend strikes in support of pay demands for the past two months. They had earlier called an indefinite strike from Aug. 3. Their union, the Société des Pilotes de Lignes Algériennes (SPLA), appealed to the pilots to call off their strike in solidarity with the loss-making airline following the hijack.

It urged pilots to place themselves at the disposal of the airline saying that was a national duty "each time that the country or the company faced difficulty."

The last major hijack from an Algerian airport took place in December 1994 when an Air France plane with 200 people on board was hijacked from Algiers to Marseille on Christmas eve.

Muslim hijackers killed three passengers and after a 54-hour stand-off, France's special forces stormed the plane and killed four hijackers.

## General Aideed wounded in fighting, claims rival

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed whom U.S. forces vainly tried to capture in 1993 has been seriously wounded during fighting in south Mogadishu, his arch-rival Ali Mahdi Mohammed said Friday.

North Mogadishu said Friday. Quoting what it called confidential sources close to Gen. Aideed's doctors, the radio said the general's life was in danger after he was shot in the abdomen, affecting the lower intestines above the kidney, during the fighting which took place in the Mogadishu district of Medina.

The radio said Gen. Aideed would be evacuated to Nairobi in neighbouring Kenya, although he preferred to be taken to Wessil village, where he is believed to have been born 61 years ago.

Gen. Aideed's militia forces are currently pitted against a joint force of Ali Mahdi's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) and fighters in the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction supporting Osman Hassan Ali Atto, Gen. Aideed's former financier-turned bitter political foe, as well as forces from the Awadle clan's Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), now Christianised the joint "Forces of Peace."

There has been no word from Gen. Aideed's government on the recent heavy clashes in and around the capital's districts of Medina and Hurwaa, which have left more than 100 people dead and more than 400 others wounded, or on Thursday's alleged capture from his forces of the key Ballidogle airport, 90 kilometres west of the capital by the joint opposition alliance forces.

It was not possible to obtain independent confirmation immediately on the claim, one of a series that have indicated that the tide was turning heavily against Gen. Aideed in the battlefield.

But in Nairobi, international aid agencies working in Mogadishu said that this time rumours about Gen. Aideed being wounded "must be true," adding that "there are too many elements fitting the claim."

Similar rumours of his being wounded have also

been circulating among Somali communities in Nairobi, Djibouti and Ethiopia.

In June 1993, the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) ordered the arrest of Gen. Aideed and even offered a \$25,000 prize for the arrest.

U.S. forces vainly tried for months to arrest the warlord in his stronghold of south Mogadishu, but this wild-goose chase ended on Oct. 3, 1993 when 18 U.S. soldiers were killed and 70 others wounded by Gen. Aideed's militia.

Earlier reports Friday had also indicated that fighting was raging between rival militias at Tishile village, 30 kilometres east of Ballidogle, where large numbers of militia and heavily armed vehicles sent by Gen. Aideed to regain control of the airport were trying to push through.

But another communiqué issued here Friday afternoon by Mr. Ali Mahdi's commanders said that the joint force had already occupied Afgoe district, 30 kilometres west of Mogadishu on Friday morning after completing the

seizure of Ballidogle airport.

The force occupied Afgoe peacefully, apparently after Gen. Aideed's militia evacuated it, without any casualties, reports quoted residents of the town as saying.

The capture of Ballidogle and occupation of Afgoe was aimed at putting pressure on Gen. Aideed's forces which have been besieging Medina, where heavy fighting resumed on Friday morning after a night's lull.

Gen. Aideed's militia were using both heavy mortars and heavy and small machineguns to fire at positions held by Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces.

The joint "Forces of Peace" have said they will not negotiate with Gen. Aideed until he retreated from his proclamation of being the president of Somalia.

Gen. Aideed, who was proclaimed interim president of Somalia for three years by a conference of his supporters held in south Mogadishu on June 15 and shortly later named a government, which is not recognised by other armed Somali clan factions and the international community.

JORDAN TELEVISION  
Tel. 773111-19  
PROGRAMME TWO  
15:03 .....Moonin  
15:26 .....Here's Lucy  
15:55 .....Varieties  
16:05 .....Olympic Games  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:10 .....Olympic Games  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:20 .....Olympic Games

PRAYER TIMES  
04:13 .....Fajr  
05:42 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
12:42 .....Dhuhr  
16:23 .....Asr  
19:42 .....Maghreb  
21:11 .....Isha

CHURCHES  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweith, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.  
Terrasanta Church Tel.  
622366  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751.  
Amman International Church  
Tel. 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

WEATHER  
Temperatures are expected to rise  
during the next two days becoming  
above average by 2-3 degree  
centigrade with winds northwest-  
erly moderate. In Aqaba, winds  
will be northerly moderate to  
active and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. ....23/35  
Amman .....27/40  
Aqaba .....27/40  
Deserts .....20/39  
Jordan Valley .....27/40  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 33, Aqaba 36 Humidity  
readings: Amman 45 per cent.  
Aqaba 52 per cent.

USEFUL  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh .....819220  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikhah 752405  
Dr. Ruhi Sukkar .....856457

Dr. Youssef Al Faqih .....790104  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asena pharmacy .....637055  
Nairouth pharmacy .....632672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu .....281484  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(-)  
Dr. Issa Al Omari .....901266  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

EMERGENCIES  
Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661117  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police 192 .....621111,  
637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775124  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department .....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....635800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Com-  
plaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Com-  
plaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (direc-  
tory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs .....623101  
Aldali Telephone Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....880100  
Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615  
Electric Power Company .....636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-  
53200  
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-  
53200

HOSPITALS  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre .....813813/82  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .....642816  
Aklieh Maternity, J. Amn .....642441/2  
Jahel Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Mushar Hospital 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh

ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:00 .....Damascus (RJ)  
10:20 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
10:30 .....Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
11:00 .....Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)  
11:00 .....Colombo (RJ)  
11:00 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
15:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:20 .....Cairo (RJ)  
19:15 .....London, Berlin (RJ)  
20:40 .....Vienna (RJ)  
02:50 .....Madrid (RJ)  
05:30 .....Bangkok (RJ)  
Other Flights  
03:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
13:40 .....Muscat, Doha (GF)  
14:00 .....Riyadh (SV)  
15:00 .....Vienna (OS)  
19:35 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
20:35 .....Cairo (MS)  
20:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)  
21:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
21:15 .....London (BA)  
22:00 .....Sanaa (TV)  
22:35 .....Larnaca (CY)  
23:55 .....London (CY)  
03:00 .....Kuwait (KF)  
03:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
03:30 .....Antalia (TK)  
06:30 .....Tel Aviv (LY)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the Queen Alia  
International Airport Tel.  
(08)53200 where it should  
always be verified. Information  
on other flights is obtained on  
telephone (08) 52700 or (08)  
523250.

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
09:45 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
12:00 .....Vienna (RJ)  
12:30 .....Amsterdam, New York  
(RJ)  
12:30 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
13:00 .....Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
13:10 .....Paris (RJ)  
13:15 .....Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)  
14:05 .....Cairo (RJ)  
21:10 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
21:10 .....Riyadh (RJ)  
21:20 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
21:45 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
22:00 .....Dhahran (add) (RJ)  
22:20 .....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
Other Flights  
04:00 .....Athens (OA)  
04:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
08:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
14:30 .....Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
15:30 .....Riyadh (SV)  
16:00 .....Vienna (OS)  
20:35 .....Kuwait (KF)  
21:25 .....Cairo (MS)  
23:00 .....Cairo (MS)  
23:30 .....Sanaa (TV)  
23:55 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
04:00 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
04:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
04:30 .....Antalia (TK)  
06:40 .....London (KF)  
07:25 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50 Aqaba (QAJA) — proceeds  
to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m.  
(RW)

MARKET PRICES  
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg  
Apricot .....850/500  
Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....600/600  
Banana (mulhammar) 520/520  
Banana (imponed) .....800/600  
Cabbage .....290/180  
Carrot .....130/80  
Cauliflower .....230/140  
Cucumber (large) .....130/80  
Cucumber (small) .....220/130  
Eggplant .....390/140  
Garlic .....650/400  
Lemon .....630/400  
Marrow (large) .....250/150  
Marrow (small) .....440/250  
Mulukhiyah .....120/80  
Onion (dry) .....130/80  
Okra .....700/500  
Orange .....400/300  
Plum .....350/250  
Pea .....500/300  
Peach .....670/400  
Pepper (hot) .....300/200  
Pepper (sweet) .....200/200  
Potato .....350/220  
String Bean .....500/300  
Sweet melon .....200/120  
Tomato .....120/70  
Water melon .....100/70

20:30 .....Aqaba (RW)  
HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN  
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every  
Monday.  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every  
Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every  
Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every  
Sunday

ATLANTA (R) — More than  
four years' worth of emotions  
poured out of American gymnast  
Shannon Miller and  
Dominique Dawes on Thurs-  
day, moments after each lost  
their chance of the Olympic  
all-around title during their  
floor exercises routines.  
Both made mistakes and  
both hurt into tears immedi-  
ately after coming off the mat.  
Dawes was leading at the  
time and she knew immedi-  
ately her challenge was over.  
The tears started flowing even  
before her floor score of 9.00.



USA's Andre Agassi hits backhand during Stone Mountain photo



Italy's Francesca Schiavone Radea during Women's Tennis match (Reuters photo)



Brazilian Ivan Pinheiro Radea during Women's Tennis match (Reuters photo)

## Tearful end

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time and she knew immedi-  
ately her challenge was over.  
The tears started flowing even  
before her floor score of 9.00.

For your dream gar-  
many sizes & colour  
covers... and it's all



## Tabloid editor released on bail

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tawfiq Kiwan, editor of the weekly tabloid *Akhbar Al Asbousa* was released Thursday on JD 1,000 bail after he was detained Wednesday on charges of inaccuracy in reporting news and undermining national unity.

Ziad Khasawneh, Mr. Kiwan's defence attorney, told the Jordan Times that President of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Seif Sharif intervened on behalf of his client.

"The judge informed us that the JPA president contacted him in a plea to free Mr. Kiwan," Mr. Khasawneh said.

Mr. Sharif said he had a pledge from both the ministers of justice and information not to detain journalists pending trial.

The formal charges pressed against Mr. Kiwan include overlooking objectivity and honesty in reporting on news, publishing inaccurate news, and threatening the country's security.

His 24 hours apprehension came following a complaint made by director of the Press and Publications Department concerning three news items that were published in a Nov. 30, 1995 issue.

Mr. Kiwan, 62, became the fourth editor, either to

be detained or to be asked to appear in court by the prosecutor general in the past few weeks.

According to Mr. Khasawneh, the court is expected to set a date to start hearing Mr. Kiwan's case in the coming few weeks.

Government sources said recently that the recent arrests were part of a government campaign against violators of the Press and Publications Law.

The move was prompted by a Parliament call last week demanding that the authorities and the media take measures to put an end to writings that undermine national unity and Arab values.

## Jordan, Algeria to open trade talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and Algerian officials today open talks aimed at bolstering economic and trade links between the two countries in preparation for a ministerial meeting due to start in Amman Monday.

An announcement by the Ministry of Industry and Trade Friday said that Minister Ali Abul Ragheb and his Algerian counterpart Abdul Karim Harshaw are to co-chair the Monday meeting.

The meeting concerns agreements on three issues — the exchange of goods between Algeria and Jordan, the encouragement of Algerian and Jordanian investment by businesspeople of the two countries, and the prevention of dual taxation and enhancement of bilateral cooperation in maritime and land transport and health affairs.

The statement said the Algerian delegation of 21 officials and business people will arrive in Amman today to attend the preparatory meeting hosted by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Sbeih.

The Algerian minister is due here Sunday.

During his visit to Algeria last May, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti held talks with Algerian officials and agreed to establish a joint committee to enhance relations through the exchange of official visits and delegations representing health, higher education and commerce sectors.

## Bonn approves JD 22 million soft loan to the Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — The German government has approved the provision of DM45 million (nearly JD 22 million) in soft loans to Jordan this year, according to an announcement Thursday upon the conclusion of talks between Jordanian and German officials in Bonn.

Two-thirds of the loans are intended for the provision of water and construction of sewage systems, and the remainder will be used towards the financing of the Adasieh Deir Allah water pipeline project in the Jordan Valley, according to the announcement.

Ministry of Planning Sec-

retary General Nabil Ammari said Germany has agreed to allocate an additional DM12 million (JD 5.72 million) in technical aid to Jordan to support several projects, in particular the development of the eastern coast of the Dead Sea to serve as a tourist region.

The announcement said the German government promises to allocate further funds for Jordanian regional projects next year, to offer Jordan 10 university scholarships in 1997, and to increase cooperation programmes between German and Jordanian universities, and has preliminarily

approved the partial financing of Jordanian agricultural and vocational training programmes planned for next year.

Germany has also promised to provide assistance to the Kingdom to help it carry out its economic reform programme and to continue helping Jordanian development projects which it deemed vital for ensuring the continuation of the peace process, according to the announcement.

Germany agreed to consider a request by Jordan to write off part of its debt. The request was made saying that 50% of the money

owed to Germany is used to endorse environmental and social projects in order to deal with the problem of poverty in the country, said the statement.

Jordanian officials also asked their German counterparts to consider Amman's demand for an increase in agricultural exports to the European Union, and Germany said that it will back Jordan in order for it to achieve its goal.

The German Embassy in Amman said that the Bonn talks which started on July 21 are part of the annual review of German-Jordanian cooperation process.

## Court sentences Salt man to death

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court Thursday sentenced a 29-year-old man to death for robbing, killing, and mutilating a man in Salt last August.

The court tribunal, comprised of Judges Ismael Hmouz, Mifteh Mobeidin, and Marwan Dabbas, found Kayed Ahmad guilty of the Aug. 14 of 1995 premeditated murder of Mahmoud Ensour, 32.

The defendant remained calm while the verdict was read out and as he was escorted by security forces out of the courtroom. In his confession after his arrest on Aug. 20, according to court documents, the defendant said he was helping the victim purchase a taxi licence. He told police that he had defrauded Mr. Ensour of JD 700 and "wanted to get rid of him because he (Mr. Ensour) kept asking for his money."

The defendant claimed in court four months ago that he did not intend to kill Mr. Ensour, but only strangled him to stop a brawl that erupted between them, adding that he "wrapped a rope around Mahmoud's (the victim) neck to restrain him,

and suddenly he fell."

"I tried to wake him up using cologne and onions, but he did not wake up, and I was frightened since he died in my house, so the only solution was to cut him into pieces," the defendant told the court in March.

Mr. Ahmad's defence attorney attempted to prove that his client, who pleaded innocent, killed Mr. Ensour to stop a quarrel.

The nine-month trial was conducted under strict security because authorities received several threats from unidentified individuals saying they would take revenge and kill the defendant.

The family of the victim refused to drop charges against Mr. Ahmad, the court said. The verdict will be examined by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

Thursday's sentencing brings to 14 the number of death sentences handed down so far this year.

Seven people have already been executed since the beginning of the year. In 1995, a total of eight people were executed for various crimes in the Kingdom.

## Peace groups sprouting in Jordan

By Francesca Chiriac  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Different peace societies have been founded in Jordan over the last two years and, away from the spotlights but untiringly, are working in coordination with similar Palestinian, Israeli and Lebanese groups and movements to enhance the peace process especially at the grass-roots level.

"Our society, founded this year, has already 50 members, but our branch in Palestine enjoys hundreds of affiliates, from Qalqilya to Hebron," president of the Jordanian branch of the Mid-East Peace Society (MPS) Taleb Harithi told the Jordan Times.

According to Dr. Harithi, the MPS held four meetings and joint seminars with delegates from its Israeli counterpart "Peace Now" here in Amman over the last six months, but "the atmosphere in Jordan was not

suitable for media coverage of these events," he said.

"The main discovery we made following our contacts with our Israeli counterparts is that we speak the same language," Dr. Harithi commented.

Like other Jordanian peace societies recently created, such as the Jordanian National Society for Peace and Culture, which, a few months ago, hosted the first painting exhibition by an Israeli artist to be held in Jordan, the MPS is registered as a cultural association at the Jordanian Ministry of Culture.

"We are not and do not want to be a political party," Dr. Harithi declared. "Our members are mainly academics and professionals, such as engineers and doctors, in one word, the intelligentsia."

According to Dr. Harithi, members of the Jordanian MPS meet regularly with their colleagues from the Palestinian branch, headed

by researcher Youssef Tomeza, and just less than two weeks ago the Jordanian and Palestinian MPS branches concluded a joint seminar in Bethlehem.

The final recommendations of the seminar called for the halt of Israeli settlements, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the immediate release of Palestinian detainees.

Referring to the MPS's contacts with the Israeli peace movement Peace Now, which has been very active in calling for the enhancement of the peace process and the redeployment of Israeli forces from the cities of the West Bank through rallies and youth conferences, Dr. Harithi said that "during meetings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv held after last May's Israeli elections, (members of Peace Now) expressed their concern over the new government and were anxious that their activities could be restricted."

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By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two men and a woman are expected to stand trial at the State Security Court in the coming weeks on charges of smuggling and dealing with narcotics, according to official sources.

In one case, according to sources, State Prosecutor General Captain Mahmoud Hiyasat questioned two men from a neighbouring Arab country, who were apprehended by Ramtha border police on July 14, 1996 while attempting to smuggle drug pills to a neighbouring country via Jordan.

Upon searching their vehicle, the source said, police retrieved more than 37,000 captagon pills hidden inside the vehicle's doors, bumpers and dash-

board.

The two men, identified by security sources only as M.D.D. 36 and J.D.D. 30, tried to flee the scene, but they were apprehended by security officers.

In the second case, a Mafrag woman, who was apprehended last week by police, is also expected to appear at the same court on charges of allegedly dealing with hashish, security sources said.

The source said the Anti Narcotics Department (AND) received a tip that a Mafrag woman was dealing with drugs. The authorities put her under surveillance. An undercover agent tried to purchase hashish from the woman, who was not identified.

The woman was apprehended by AND agents while in the act of selling 117 grammes of hashish to

the undercover officer.

According to the source, the woman confessed and is being held pending further investigation.

The Public Security Department (PSD) recently issued a statement warning that the number of cases and people involved in drug trafficking operations was on the rise.

The PSD said that last year, AND agents seized a record amount of illicit drugs — more than three tonnes of smuggled narcotics.

The statement attributed the increase to the geographical location of the Kingdom which authorities believe is used as a transit point for narcotics smuggling from neighbouring countries.

In a related development, Customs Department

Director General Nazmi Abdullah Thursday announced the seizure of 8 million smuggled cigarettes worth JD 250,000.

Mr. Abdullah said: "Some reliable sources have informed us that there were smuggled cartons of cigarettes in one of the containers departing from eastern Europe transiting through Cyprus and heading to Jordan."

He added that after a routine check on the container, the cargo was released but remained under surveillance till it reached Amman Customs for clearing.

"We discovered 78 cartons full of used shoes to be sold in 800 in Amman and another 800 cartons of smuggled cigarettes, each containing 10 boxes — equalling a total of 8 million cigarettes."

## Ministry to honour Zakat Fund benefactors

AMMAN (Petra) — During a religious celebration at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman to mark the anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad's birth, several benefactors who contributed to the construction of mosques and donated a total of JD 100,000, and those who made major donations to the Zakat Fund will be honoured by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, a ministry statement said.

The statement said that the ministry has arranged for other religious ceremonies to be held, and for processions involving scouts and army bands in Amman and other towns, as well as ceremonies for the laying of foundation stones

for several mosques and charity projects. To mark the celebration, the ministry has also arranged for religious leaders of the community to visit orphanages, reform schools and hospitals to distribute gifts, the statement said.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi issued a statement Friday saying that on this anniversary the ministry will open a permanent charity souq, an Islamic museum at the King Abdullah Mosque complex, and will announce the commencement of construction of an industrial and training centre for orphans.

## Road accidents claim 400 lives a year

AMMAN (Petra) — Road accidents in Jordan claim the lives of more than 400 people a year and leave 12,000 others injured, according to Col. Fakhri Iskander, director of the Traffic Department. Addressing the opening session of a one-day symposium on road accidents Thursday, Col. Iskander said car accidents cost the country more than JD 100 million a year.

He added that 47 per cent of the deaths and 42 per cent of the injuries are caused by road accidents, although this only constitutes 20 per cent of the total accidents. He stressed that 60 per cent of road accidents victims are children and young people. Participants in the assembly, organised by the Traffic Department in cooperation with the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, discussed three working papers on the role of drivers, particularly young drivers, and the Car Owners Association in preventing road accidents.

## U.S. envoy

(Continued from page 1)

it said. The statement said Mr. Netanyahu in turn expressed his government's desire to further talks and quoted him saying "we are considering different ways to continue the process."

"Among the ways to further these talks the issue of Lebanon was also raised among other issues and it was agreed that the continuation of the process would be done in a considered way after deep consultations," it said.

Israeli newspapers have said — and the prime minister's office has denied — that Mr. Netanyahu wants to explore with U.S. peace brokers the prospects of a deal with Syria to withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Such a deal, involving Syria as the main power broker in Lebanon, would impose security arrangements that would enable Israel to withdraw from a 15-kilometre-wide strip of Lebanese land at the border.

But Mr. Ross said Friday that there was still a long way to go before Israel and Syria break

the ice and resume their peace talks.

"It will be a long process. We shouldn't have any illusions. We aren't around the corner of the achievement of peace," he told reporters after meeting with Mr. Levy and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

But he said he was not despondent adding that in his swing of the region everyone had expressed their desire to make peace. "The recognition of the absence of any alternative together with the commitment to go ahead gives me a basis for hope."

According to the Israeli daily Haaretz, Mr. Ross believes a willingness in principle to resume the talks, which have so far been carried out using Washington as a go between, is not enough.

"There is no sense in the two parties meeting to rediscuss the interpretation of U.N. Resolution 242," the paper said. Meanwhile, Mr. Netanyahu said in an interview published on Friday that he was committed to the Middle East peace process but saw only hostility and lack of trust in Israeli-Syrian relations.

"Between us and the Syrians there is no trust, only hostility prevails," Mr. Netanyahu told

the *Corriere Della Sera* newspaper in an interview from Jerusalem.

"(President Assad) continues to support terrorists, he uses Hizbollah as a force of pressure. It's a serious situation which risks degenerating at any moment," he said.

The pro-Israeli Hizbollah (Party of God) said on Thursday it carried out a bomb attack in Israel's occupation zone in southern Lebanon. One man was badly hurt.

Hizbollah is fighting 1,000 Israeli soldiers and the 3,000-strong South Lebanon Army to oust them from the zone.

"It is perfectly possible to agree with Beirut and Damascus to guarantee the withdrawal of our soldiers from southern Lebanon, provided that we succeed in guaranteeing the dismantling of Hizbollah and the security of our border to the south," Mr. Netanyahu said, when asked whether he was seeking a gradual peace with Syria, beginning with Lebanon.

Mr. Levy said on Wednesday he was ready to meet Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharaa "in any place and at any time" to discuss peace talks that are stuck over the fate of the Golan Heights.

## TRC to issue 12 licences to telecommunications firms

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) Youssef Abu Jamous said the department will issue licences before the end of the year to 12 private sector companies to provide telecommunications services in such fields as data communication, public pay telephones and mobile radios, according to a report in the Arabic daily *Al Rai*.

During a lecture at the Rotary Club of Amman, Mr. Abu Jamous said the department will tender for a new paging service, which is expected to provide competitive services.

He added that the commission will issue tenders to provide and operate public telephone services throughout the Kingdom. Moreover, the commission will license three other companies to provide

mobile telephone services for vehicles.

The commission will also revise and amend the data communications agreement to enable the current operating companies, such as Sprint, Global System for Mobile Communications and the First Communication Group to obtain permanent licences instead of temporary permits by the end of the year.

On cellular phones, Mr. Abu Jamous said the commission will issue licences to new companies to provide cellular phone services.

He said the commission's decision to issue new licences aims to improve delivery of telecommunications services at competitive prices, and to cope with the global developments in the communications field.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### JERASH FESTIVAL

Concert by Non-Servant Arching Folklore Troupe at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

Jordanian play entitled "Weden" at Artimes Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

Concert by Lebanese Karakalla Art Troupe at the Palace of Culture at 8:30 p.m.

Performance by Kokchaleh Folklore Group of Germany at the Sound and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

Concert by artist Haltham Amer at Grace Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

Performance by the Jordanian Armed Forces Musical Band, the Amman Youth Centre, the Jordanian Band of Popular Art, Madaba Youth Centre, and Jerash Youth Centre at the Main Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

Egyptian National Circus and British Five Star Circus at the Main Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

Play entitled "The Fall of Man" at Grace Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

Lectures on the development of Arab literature and prose at Darul Al Funun (8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

#### EXHIBITIONS

"Flowers of Fikr" — Works by Hani Alwan, Ahmad Shehadeh, Khalid Qasbi, Suzanne Shehadeh, and Nur Rehelel at Darul Al Funun, Jerash, Madaba, and Amman (8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Exhibition of works by Sudanese artist Rashid Dar entitled "The Day of Silence" at Darul Al Funun, Jerash, Madaba, and Amman displaying works by contemporary Arab artists until July 31.







Vietnam's milit  
ordered to ste  
sober



Thousands of youth, many bearing clubs and sticks, run through the streets of the capital city Thursday as a truck of army soldiers being used to reinforce security pass by. Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army announced a military takeover and named former ruler Major Pierre Buyoya as the head of its junta (Reuters photo)

## Burundi calm as bloodless coup angers U.S., U.N.

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Burundi's capital appeared calm and composed overnight after a bloodless coup put a former military ruler in power and triggered outrage in Washington and at U.N. headquarters.

Pierre Buyoya, 46, a Tutsi officer who was declared interim president by the Defence Ministry, immediately sought to bring peace to a country riven by ethnic bloodletting.

"Our first objective is to quickly stop the massacres and all forms of criminality that prevail in Burundi," Major Buyoya said on national radio. "Our first objective is to bring peace."

He promised protection for everyone in Burundi — Tutsi or Hutu — and vowed to defeat those whom he said had "embraced the ideology of genocide."

"We urge the international community to understand us," he said. "Today's change is a change based on the greater resolve of refusing let our country, Burundi, go to waste while wise men sit back and watch."

Though the streets of Bujumbura looked calm, the new regime closed all border crossing and airports in this small central African republic of 5.5 million people, which has teetered on the brink of civil war for three years.

The United States, directly caught up in Burundi's woes after the ousted President Sylvestre Ntibunganya, fearing for his life, took refuge in its embassy in Bujumbura Tuesday, condemned the coup.

"They have shut down the political process," U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said, referring to the coup leaders, adding that the United States still recognised Mr. Ntibunganya, a Hutu, as head of state.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali was also enraged, saying: "The international community will, on no account, accept a change of government by force or other illegitimate means in Burundi."

U.S. envoy Howard Wolf was set to travel to East Africa at the weekend to discuss plans for an African regional force that would help Burundi avert the ethnic nightmare that left 500,000 dead in Rwanda in 1994.

An existing dusk-to-dawn curfew in Bujumbura was retained overnight Thursday and the National Assembly, political parties and political organisations were suspended until further notice.



Major Pierre Buyoya prays in a church in Bujumbura. Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army announced a military takeover and named former ruler Maj. Buyoya as the head of its junta (Reuters photo)

The Defence Ministry said. The coup did not appear to have sparked any celebrations or violence, and most people appeared willing to go to work as normal Thursday.

State-run television broadcast a statement urging government employees to report for work Friday. It also said schools remained open.

Maj. Buyoya, a major in the armed forces, last grabbed power in a military coup in 1987 and served until 1993 — a year before a mysterious airplane crash that killed the then president of Burundi and Rwanda and rekindled Hutu-Tutsi tensions in both countries.

Burundi has an 85 per cent Hutu majority among a population of 5.5 million, but the Tutsis control the army and the other key levers of power. Most of the residents of Bujumbura are Tutsis.

U.S. military planners were at the United Nations Thursday to draw up plans for a U.S. airlift of "several thousand" African troops in Burundi if the situation deteriorates, officials said.

Belgium, the former de facto colonial power in Burundi, and the United States were also cooperating on a plan for the possible evacuation of foreign nationals, a senior State Department official said.

The overthrow of Mr. Ntibunganya has been brewing for days after the collapse of an accord between Tutsis and Hutus aimed at preventing a Rwanda-style genocide. Under a 1994 protocol, enacted in the wake of the Rwanda bloodbath, Mr. Ntibunganya took power with a Tutsi as prime minister.

Documents found in the flat indicated they planned to assassinate Manuel Fraga, a former minister under dictator Francisco Franco and now the regional president of Galicia, officials said.

Police also found information about other politicians including Public Administration Minister Mariano Rajoy. Spanish and French police claimed a significant victory Tuesday when they arrested Julian Achurra Egurola, an arms and logistics expert considered number three in ETA's hierarchy.

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## ETA deals new blow with killing of Basque employer

MADRID (R) — A Basque businessman was shot dead in the early hours of Friday in Ordizia, northern Spain, in what officials called a tragic setback to a week of successes in the struggle against Basque separatist group ETA.

Basque police said one or two attackers fired five shots at Isidro Usabiaga, head of a construction firm in the Guipuzcoa region, as he arrived home from a party at around 5.30 a.m. (0330 GMT).

Red Cross workers said Mr. Usabiaga died in the ambulance on his way to hospital. He had been shot in the head, the abdomen and the thigh.

The businessman had become a target for ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) after refusing to pay a so-called Revolutionary Tax, local officials said.

ETA, which has killed some 800 people since it began a violent drive for an independent Basque state in 1968, raises part of its funds by extorting cash from local businesses.

Friday's murder is the latest in a series of attacks by the Basque guerrillas this month, which have included a car bomb attack in San Sebastian in which a man lost his foot and an airport bomb in Reus which injured 35.

It was the fifth ETA killing this year. The last victim was an army sergeant killed by a bomb in the southern city of Cordoba on May 20.

Enrique Villar, government representative in the Basque region, said Friday's murder was a setback after the successes earlier this week.

But Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja praised Usabiaga's sense of civic duty in refusing to cave in to ETA's blackmail.

"Without a doubt he had a very significant role and a great sense of civic duty at the hour of standing up to the Revolutionary Tax," Mayor Oreja told radio station SER.

Spain's paramilitary Civil Guard Thursday discovered a substantial arsenal in an ETA safe flat in the northern city of La Coruna, indicating that three presumed members of the rebel group arrested Wednesday were planning a major attack.

The stockpile included 250 kilograms of explosives, the largest quantity seized in a single operation in the last three years, according to police. The cache also comprised grenades, machine-guns, timers and forged license plates.

Aitor Fresnedo, Carlos Emilio Cristobal and Maria Aranzazu Garballe were detained earlier this week. Documents found in the flat indicated they planned to assassinate Manuel Fraga, a former minister under dictator Francisco Franco and now the regional president of Galicia, officials said.

Police also found information about other politicians including Public Administration Minister Mariano Rajoy. Spanish and French police claimed a significant victory Tuesday when they arrested Julian Achurra Egurola, an arms and logistics expert considered number three in ETA's hierarchy.

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## Jury deliberations begin in trial of Clinton allies

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — Jury deliberations have begun in the White-water trial of two bankers accused of fraud and violating banking laws to help Bill Clinton's 1990 campaign for reelection as Arkansas governor.

U.S. District Judge Susan Wright gave the politically charged case to the jury of eight men and four women after final arguments from both sides, and the jurors deliberated for about 90 minutes before going home for the night.

They were told to report back and continue their work Friday morning.

The courtroom, in downtown Little Rock, was packed throughout Thursday with more than 100 people, many of them supporters of defendants Herby Branscum and Robert Hill.

coming to see the final stages of a trial that began on June 17.

Prosecutors alleged in closing arguments that Mr. Branscum and Mr. Hill stole from their own bank to help finance the 1990 gubernatorial campaign of Mr. Clinton, who two years later was elected president.

Defence lawyers in turn accused Whitewater investigators of bullying the star prosecution witness into inventing evidence in order to win convictions and hurt Mr. Clinton's reputation.

Lead prosecutor Hickman Ewing said Mr. Branscum and Mr. Hill made up numerous bogus expense reports to reimburse themselves for campaign contributions to Mr. Clinton and other Democrats.

He said the paper trail laid out over the last five weeks showed they also concealed from federal regulators two cash withdrawals totalling \$52,500 made by Mr. Clinton's 1990 campaign from their Perry County Bank in Perryville, Arkansas.

"Even though you own a bank that doesn't mean you can do what you want with it or its funds," Mr. Ewing told the jury.

Prosecutors allege that Bruce Lindsey, the 1990 campaign treasurer and now a senior aide to President Clinton, conspired with the defendants to hide those cash transactions from the Internal Revenue Service.

No charges were presented against Mr. Lindsey or Mr. Clinton but Mr. Lindsey was named an unindicted co-conspirator at the trial and both men were called to testify.

Mr. Ewing said the defendants' motive in breaking the law was to curry favour with Mr. Clinton, and that they were rewarded when he appointed them to influential state commissions.

Central to the prosecution case is a December 1990 meeting in which Mr. Hill banded Mr. Clinton more than \$15,000 to help pay debts from his successful campaign for a fifth term as governor, and the two men then discussed Mr. Branscum's candidacy for the State Highway Commission, a plum job which offers huge patronage opportunities.

Mr. Branscum was appointed to the commission a few weeks after the meeting and, later in 1991, Mr. Clinton reappointed Mr. Hill to the State Banking Board.

## Russian troops clash with Chechen rebels near Bamut

MOSCOW (R) — Russian troops beat off an attempt by Chechen separatist fighters to seize the strategic village of Bamut in the west of the breakaway region, a Russian military spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman, quoted by Interfax News Agency, said between 75 and 100 rebels had attempted to storm Bamut Thursday evening but the attackers "were met with intense fire from a unit of Interior Ministry troops and were driven back."

"There has been no opportunity yet to obtain information about casualties among the servicemen and attacking fighters," the spokesman said.

ITAR-TASS news agency said four Russian servicemen had been killed and nine others wounded in clashes in Chechnya since Thursday morning. Federal troops were fired upon eight times in the same period, it said, quoting the Russian military.

Fighting in Chechnya has intensified since Russian President Boris Yeltsin won a second term in office on July 3, with each side accusing the other of violating peace accords reached as part of Mr. Yeltsin's reelection campaign.

Russian officials say separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev has lost control of his radical field commanders. But the only evidence of this so far has been recent wildcat statements by "lone wolf" rebel Salaman Raduyev.

Mr. Raduyev has disowned the peace accords and threatened attacks against Russia's vast railway network. He claimed responsibility for bomb planted at a railway station in the southern Russian city of Voronezh this week.

Interfax quoted a Russian military spokesman as saying that another rebel commander, Shamil Basayev, was "out of control." Mr. Basayev and Mr. Raduyev were respective leaders of hostage-taking raids in southern Russia in June 1995 and January 1996.

The Russian spokesman told TASS separatist fighters had been bombing Interior Ministry positions near Stary Akhkhoy in western Chechnya and Gudermes and Gerzel-Aul in the east.

"Against the background of statements by Mr. Yandarbiyev and his circle of their intention to continue negotiations with the federal side, Mr. Basayev has ordered his units to resist the Russian troops in every way," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Russian daily Komsomolskaya Pravda said Friday former Chechen separatist leader Dzhukhar Dudayev is living in Germany, having fled war-torn Chechnya in April, contradicting reports of his death.

Rumours that Mr. Dudayev is still alive have multiplied because the circumstances of his reported death were shrouded in mystery.

Chechen rebel sources said Mr. Dudayev was killed on April 21 when a Russian air-to-surface missile homed in on his satellite telephone near the village of Gekhi Chu.

However, the rebels refused to say where he was buried and nobody claimed to have seen his dead body.

Mr. Raduyev fuelled the rumours by swearing on the Koran that Mr. Dudayev was still alive. Mr. Raduyev himself had been given up for dead in March but dramatically reappeared in Chechnya last week, having undergone surgery after an assassination attempt.

Komsomolskaya Pravda quoted "reliable sources" as saying a U.S.-Turkish plan had been devised to re-

launch Russian-Chechen peace negotiations. It involved the removal of Mr. Dudayev, whom President Boris Yeltsin refused to meet, and of hardline Chechen rebel commanders Salaman Raduyev and Shamil Basayev.

According to the sources, Mr. Basayev resisted the U.S. and Turkish pressure, preferring to remain with his fighters in the mountainous Vedeno region of Chechnya.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dudayev fled to Germany via the Russian Republic of Dagestan, and was recently "at a NATO base near Munich," the sources said.

"He could move freely on the military base, but could not leave. However, he had several visits," the paper said.

Although Mr. Dudayev's ethnic Russian wife Alla said in April that he had been killed, her disappearance for the past weeks has also been a mystery.

Mr. Dudayev declared Chechnya independent from Russia in September 1991 and spearheaded the Chechen rebel resistance to Russian troops, who stormed into the small Caucasian republic in December 1994.

## Japan seeks foreign help to tackle killer germ

TOKYO (R) — Japan is considering drastic measures to combat the outbreak of a killer germ and said Friday it had formally asked the United States, Canada and Britain for expert help.

On Friday, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto formally called a meeting of a special cabinet panel to thrash out emergency measures to contain the two-month-old epidemic of food poisoning caused by the O-157 bacteria, which has claimed seven lives and made 8,500 people ill.

"We are gravely concerned about the spread of food poisoning caused by the O-157 colon bacillus bacteria," top government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama said after the meeting.

"The government will take all necessary measures," he told a news conference attended by several cabinet ministers assigned to the task of halting the epidemic.

More than 6,400 people, mostly schoolchildren, have come down with the germ in the western Japanese city of Sakai alone.

The two-week-old outbreak in Sakai was traced to school lunches prepared by city-run kitchens. But the tainted food carrying the bacteria has not been identified.

Health officials in Sakai said Friday the number of serious cases declined to 62 from Thursday's 78. Of the 62 patients in serious condition, 26 remained critically ill.

"The failure to identify the cause of the food poisoning makes it difficult to deal with this issue," Health Minister Naoto Kan told the news conference.

"We want everyone to have a sense of crisis and properly deal with the food poisoning," Mr. Kan said.

Lax sanitation controls have been blamed in the latest outbreak. Kyodo News Agency said the suspected school lunches were left in summer heat temperatures for up to three hours before they were served, which would have provided ideal conditions for the bacteria to grow rapidly.

In what could be the most drastic preventative measure, Health Minister Naoto Kan raised the possibility of secluding patients stricken with the bacteria in isolation wards.

## Torrential rains on DMZ kill 20 S. Koreans; one N. Korean dies

SEOUL (AFP) — Twenty South Korean soldiers died when a massive mudslide triggered by torrential rains buried their barracks as they slept near the demilitarized zone Friday, the Defence Ministry said.

Two North Korean soldiers meanwhile were fished out of a river on the border, one dead and one alive.

Rescue operations were halted at the barracks at an isolated frontline mountain outpost of the Fifth Division adjacent to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) when all men had been accounted for, an AFP photographer said.

A total of 47 troops were believed to have been in the barracks when the landslide hit, and 20 died.

At the site of the mudslide, one barracks building was completely buried, but another which escaped the slide was intact, the photographer said. The ground was strewn with food ration cans, blankets and personal belongings.

A stream of private cars filled with anxious parents and relatives were trying to drive through the pelting rain as close as they could to the off-limits security area to learn news of their sons.

Meanwhile, a second front line unit, the army

First Division, reported recovering the body of a man believed to be a North Korean soldier from the rain-swollen waters of the Injin River which runs along the frontier.

A second North Korean soldier, a 20-year-old army sergeant, was bailed alive from the same river in a dramatic two-hour-long rescue operation Friday morning, it said.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said it was unclear whether the sergeant, identified as Kim Yong-Gil, had wanted to defect to the south or not. He was still under interrogation, he said.

Yonhap News Agency said however that the hapless North Korean soldier, who was in full uniform and wearing a Kim Il-Sung badge, had grabbed an inner tube thrown to him by a policeman, and was dragged ashore suffering from acute exhaustion.

Immediately after the pre-dawn landslide hit the Fifth Division unit, the army's attempts to rush heavy equipment to the area to dig out the victims were hindered by heavy rains and the mountainous terrain.

First three, then four bodies were found, and seven injured dragged from the mud. By midday hopes were dashed when the last 13 were found dead and two

injured died, and television began giving the names of the casualties.

In Seoul Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho urged frontline commanders to reinforce surrounding areas to prevent a recurrence of the mudslide disaster as weather forecasts predicted the heavy rains would continue.

It was disastrous floods in North Korea in July and August of last year that wiped out large areas of croplands, worsened existing food shortages and triggered Pyongyang's unprecedented international appeals for aid.

The First Division, in its report of the rescue of the North Korean soldier, said sentries first reported a man sighted clinging to a rock in the swiftly-flowing, rain-swollen river at 6:30 a.m.

An alerted army unit was unable to do anything but follow his path down the river until he was washed against the struts of a bridge two hours later, it said.

A body, believed to be that of another North Korean soldier, was found in the same border river by South Korean troops Thursday night, Yonhap said.

The body wore military underwear, leading investigators to believe he had been washed across the border.

## Zulu nationalists face critical choices in changing South African politics

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) faces critical choices about its role in President Nelson Mandela's government at its national conference that begins Friday.

More than 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the three-day meeting in the party's Kwazulu-Natal province stronghold of Ulundi amid sea changes in South Africa's political arena.

On the top of the agenda, senior IFP members say, is the party's continued participation in Mr. Mandela's national coalition cabinet and possible alliances with other parties.

IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the two other IFP ministers have remained in the 26-member government with Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) since the withdrawal last month of Frederick De Klerk's National Party (NP).

The NP, which is the second biggest party in parliament, left to fashion itself as the main opposition to the ANC and attract more blacks to its predominantly white voting base.

Should the IFP decide to follow the NP out of government it will officially end the power-sharing arrangement that has characterized South Africa's political life since the historic April 1994 all-race elections.

arch nemesis. But, say observers, since the NP's withdrawal caused hardly a ripple in economic and political circles, the IFP could decide to stay on.

If media speculation proves true, Mr. Mandela could even offer Mr. Buthelezi the post of second deputy president, left vacant by Mr. De Klerk.

Such a proposal may tempt the veteran Zulu leader who, say his colleagues, is bitter about having been a political runner-up while the white former president shared the limelight with Mr. Mandela.

Media analysis leading up to the Ulundi conference has been dominated by suggestions that the IFP is preparing to enter an alliance with the NP or the ANC.

The NP and IFP, both conservative and appealing to traditional and strong free market sentiments, share an similar ideological platform.

Their relationship dates back to the 1980s and early 1990s when the NP government agents covertly supplied IFP members with arms in a bloody war with ANC supporters in troubled Kwazulu-Natal.

Mr. De Klerk met Mr. Buthelezi in Ulundi Tuesday, ostensibly to discuss the NP's future role in the province where the government is dominated by the IFP.

Although denied by both the IFP and NP, several analysts were convinced that Mr. De Klerk's visit was intended to ward off a possible ANC-IFP pact.



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Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
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Telephone: 6843111, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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## Collective punishment won't work

**ISRAELI PRIME** Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cannot, should not, resort to total closure of the West Bank and Gaza every time an Israeli is killed at the hands of Palestinian militants. News reports from the autonomy areas and Israel say that the guerrillas who killed two Israelis 10 kilometres inside Israel had sneaked from the occupied territories. The thousands of Palestinian workers who were allowed into Israel to work only on Wednesday cannot have perpetrated that attack. Those are screened by both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

Furthermore, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority can do little to stem violence originating from those cities and towns over which they have no control. Those who oppose peace will always find the means to infiltrate into Israel. And those who do oppose peace are in abundance and will continue to be so until peace is sealed and all claims and counter-claims are settled once and for all.

Violence cannot only be blamed on the Palestinians who continue to suffer all kinds of hardship and who see no light at the end of the tunnel and whose hopes and aspirations for self-determination are being shattered everyday by a new Israeli drive to enhance settlement activity in the occupied territories.

The Israeli prime minister needs to think over his policy of security first and last. All Israeli wars were aimed at providing Israel with the security it dreams of. Israel won all the wars but it is yet to win security. Wise men and women of goodwill, from His Majesty King Hussein to U.S. President Bill Clinton, have been telling Mr. Netanyahu that there will not be security before and without peace.

The collective punishment of Palestinians through the sealing off of the autonomy areas will not work. Only more coordination and cooperation, and positive engagement between Israel and the Palestinians, is capable of limiting violence and ensuring security for both peoples. Such brutal and archaic methods as have been adopted by the Israelis so far will simply lead to more strife and bloodshed.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily described as very dangerous to the Arabs a recent Israeli Turkish military pact and warned that such a move means tightening the noose around Syria, as well as Iran and Iraq. Fahd Al Fanek said that the pact allows Israel to use Turkish military bases and seaports and so threaten Syria from the north and weaken Iran's influence in the Arab World. The pact also allows Turkish pilots to get training in Israel, in modern technological war, and to hold joint military exercises with Turkish forces on Turkish territory, added the writer. The new Islamist-dominated Turkish government can do nothing to change the situation because its partner in the coalition, the True Path Party, and the Turkish military wield great power in the country and are oriented towards the West and military cooperation with Israel, noted the writer. For this reason, he said, the Arab countries in general and Syria, Iraq and Iran in particular are facing a common danger which prompted Syria to try to improve its ties with Jordan lest the Kingdom joined the Turkish-Israeli pact and completed the siege around Damascus. The writer criticised the recent Cairo Arab summit for failing to point to the danger inherent in the Turkish-Israeli alliance saying that its dangers are yet to be realised by the Arab Nation.

REFLECTING ON the government's decision to end the bread subsidy, a writer for Al-Dustour said that successive governments of Jordan, since 1989 when the crisis started to emerge, bear the responsibility for not heeding the advice of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) against overspending and the introduction of economic reforms. Hamadeh Faraaneh said that equally responsible for this critical economic situation in Jordan are those officials and ministers who stuffed government departments with their relatives and members of their clans at a time these government departments did not need more employees, being a liability on the state. The writer said that by employing additional numbers of people, for the sake of securing for them monthly salaries for very little or no work at all, these governments have contributed towards the present economic crisis in Jordan, continued the writer. He said the IMF acts like a doctor that provides advice and prescribes the medication whenever a patient is in need for it and therefore one should appreciate rather than criticise the IMF's role in this matter. The writer said that one painful measure is needed now in order to put matters right and help the country pursue the path towards economic reform and development.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

# Netanyahu, under domestic pressure, is bound to disappoint expectations

THOUGH MANY Arabs felt that Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has performed very well in Cairo and has sent many positive signals to Arab capitals, it seems that he is at the moment overruled by the heavy-weight pressures within his own cabinet where the two super-hawks, Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan, had him cornered into a situation of political dependency.

It seems that the area is sliding back into a new era of managed conflict which cannot be stopped by either the eloquent French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette or the techniques of persuasion of U.S. special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross.

The domestic pressures in Israel are forcing Netanyahu to disappoint many observers who saw a glimmer of hope in his election victory. His economic policy has led to the total dismantling of the "cooperatives" created by the founding father Ben Gurion and other Labour Zionists. Many repercussions will follow the budget cuts, which totalled this year \$1.5 billion, one manifestation of which was the 10-hour strike organised by 400,000 state employees and supervised by the Histadrut.

Diplomats in Tel Aviv described that strike as a real threat to Israel's security. Moreover, Netanyahu's economic "reformist" policies reflected immediately on Tel Aviv's stock exchange which has slid by 20 per cent since election day on May 29, 1996.

Therefore, it was to be expected that the new prime minister would give priority to satisfying his coalition partners and constituents by being more of a hardliner than they are. Consequently, he does not care to proceed along the Palestinian track since no pressure is forcing him to stand

in the White House's Rose Garden and shake hands with anybody he does not like or respect.

The Clinton administration is not in a position to put any pressure on Israel, too during a crucial four-month election period in Washington, for reasons everybody knows. For public relations consideration, Israel will announce that the Palestinian National Authority committed thousands of Oslo accord violations, including the fact that it does not lash out on Hamas and other Islamic Jihad activists.

Moreover, it does not serve the Netanyahu aspirations, domestically, to announce a withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights. Therefore, he will freeze the talks on the Syrian track, using the pretext that Damascus does not restrain Hizbollah fighters from firing Katyusha rockets against civilians in northern Israel.

Using the Hizbollah pretext is as good to delay negotiations with the Syrians as the Hamas pretext is good to refuse meeting Yasser Arafat. The formula for combining the two false pretexts is the newly-coined phrase "peace or terror". The pressure on Netanyahu for a Golan withdrawal made him try to sell, in Washington, the idea of "triple containment", to include Damascus as well as Tehran and Baghdad in the U.S.-sponsored sanctions.

In order to free himself of all commitments made by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres regarding a territorial offer on the Golan, the new Israeli leader came out with the new concept of "peace with deterrence" which translates into creating deterrence by weakening military and party dictatorship. This way Damascus cannot be a peace partner since it is not considered an "ideal democracy." It

is within this perspective that he sees a Palestinian state as a Trojan horse, threatening both Israel and Jordan. The West Bank, for him, should be the protective wall to save Israelis.

It is within this context that we can understand why Israeli officials authorised two days ago a group of ultra-orthodox Jews to go into the sacred mosque of the Dome of the Rock, in Jerusalem, whose custodianship is in Jordanian hands, according to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

There have been earlier attempts to allow Jewish prayers inside that mosque, but all were stopped when bloodshed and riots were the direct results.

This decision by Israelis is bound to put the Jordanian-Israeli relations into the worst position. His Majesty King Hussein can never renounce his rights to Jerusalem. Muslims in Jordan will never tolerate their third holiest shrine shared. It reminds them of another incident, when Israeli Baruch Goldstein shared their prayer mosque in Hebron, a few years ago, with tens of Muslims gunned down.

It has become crystal clear that the Eitan-Sharon-Netanyahu cabinet is determined to hackback on Israel's peace commitments to Jordan, to Syria and the Palestinians.

Whatever pretexts are manipulated and offered, uneasiness is felt everywhere. The actions by the Israeli government could be justified domestically on economic and election grounds, but they are an open invitation to renewed tension and religious violence in the area.

# The 'new face' of Israel to be bulldozer-shaped by ruthless Sharon

By Hirsch Goodman

The writer is the editor of the English-language Israeli magazine The Jerusalem Report. The article below is reprinted from the July 25 issue of the bi-weekly magazine.

IN A series of manoeuvres that left Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looking like a boy scout, Foreign Minister David Levy has managed to bring Ariel Sharon into the government as the minister for national infrastructure, formally charged with bringing Israel into the next millennium.

As housing minister in the Shamir government, Sharon managed, to waste around \$5 billion, according to conservative calculations, by building homes for new immigrants where they were not needed and on mobile home sites that remain a blight to this day. He issued government guarantees to fly-by-night contractors to build shoddy apartments, 81,000 of them, in towns with no work and no industrial infrastructure that could ever provide work, which immigrants refused to move to. Half remained empty.

As minister of defence in the Begin government, Sharon got us embroiled in a war in Lebanon, manipulating his way to the outskirts of Beirut without the knowledge or approval of either the prime minister or

cabinet. I was there and watched him do it: creating situations after situations that always meant the army had to move a little bit forward and take just one more hill.

That war left 650 Israelis dead and this country scarred for generations to come.

In the 70s, when he joined the first Begin government, he accepted the seemingly innocuous post of agricultural minister. Sharon, however, was the only agricultural minister ever to read the small print on his contract and discovered that he had sweeping powers over settlement in the territories. First came the dummy settlements in the southern tip of the Gaza Strip on the day that the defence minister Ezer Weizman was flying off to make peace with the Egyptians. And then came dozens and dozens more throughout the West Bank and Gaza, mushrooming overnight — settlements that had no settlers, that could never support themselves financially and that required a huge investment in defence and infrastructure to keep them going.

Now he is responsible for the face of the only Jewish country we have, as it will appear for generations to come: roads, railways, ports, airports, urban transportation, water planning, land allocation, sewage, energy, mines and quarries. Critically, he will also control the Israel Lands Administration which,



among other things, is responsible for absentee property — real estate listed as left behind by Arab refugees — and the allocation thereof. Expect many a house in co-located areas of Jerusalem, like Silwan, to end up in Jewish hands soon.

And, hidden in the loop list is, bingo, responsibility for the construction of all bypass roads to be built in what was supposed to have been Palestine. The man who brought us the Trans-Samaria Highway is being given another chance at making sure that Palestine will never happen; to use his bulldozers to bury Oslo. Dore Gold and Yasser

Arafat, Clinton and Netanyahu can negotiate till they are blue in the face. With Sharon in charge of bypass roads, expect 10 new Jewish towns in Judea and Samaria within three years. Roads need soldiers to protect them. Soldiers need bases. Bases need electricity and water. And roads need land, lots of it, land that will be expropriated from Palestinian farmers who will lose fields they have tilled for generations.

There are those who will argue that Sharon, with his bulldog tenacity, is the type of person needed to mold Israel's future, to bulldoze his way through the bureaucrats, like city planners,

ecologists and other irritants, to get the job done. He is not. He is an off-proven disaster, a man who has no limits, no discipline, who uses power ruthlessly and will stop at nothing to get his way. Netanyahu has concentrated unprecedented power in his hands. Let's hope the next stop isn't Beirut.

There is another aspect to this story. When, on the evening of July 3, in a well-orchestrated but unexpected move, Levy left Netanyahu with his bombshell that he would resign unless Sharon was given a cabinet post before the prime minister's July 9 trip to the U.S., Netanyahu caved in. Instead

of telling Levy that he was free to go, that the first directly elected prime minister of Israel would not give in to blackmail, in less than five hours he capitulated and gave Israel on a platter to a man he does not trust and who he did not want in his government. Not just the roads and the water and the sewage and the land and energy and the mines and the development of the Negev and the Galilee, the ports and railways, but the political future of this country for a long time to come.

There is much to worry about. Netanyahu has displayed remarkable consistency in caving in under pressure and speaking out of both sides of his mouth. He thought he could outmanoeuvre a crafty and experienced ex-general, use him to win the election and discard him like a used rag. Wrong.

Levy and Sharon have made the prime minister look inexperienced, naive and weak. And how the three of them are ever going to live together at the helm of state is totally beyond me. We have had leadership in the past and survived. Never before, however, has a cabinet been so fractious, with even the prime minister's supposed allies acting as his enemies.

The morning after the election I decided to give Netanyahu the benefit of the doubt. Since then, unfortunately, it has been all doubt and no benefit.

# Netanyahu's about-face worries Europe, U.S.

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL Arabic press last week gave prominence to the ongoing flurry of diplomatic activity in the Middle East. Israel's stand on peace with the Arabs and domestic affairs.

Writing under the title "France's successful pioneering role in the region", a writer for Al Ra'i daily said that after playing a key role in ensuring an end to Israel's aggression on Lebanon last April, Paris has embarked on a new endeavour to give momentum to the peace process.

Sultan Al Hatat said that Paris is not only helping the countries of the region, to restore peace and security, it is also protecting European interests, paving the way for Europe's new role to establish peace.

The writer said that France's positive role, which was clear during the Florence summit of the world's group of seven nations, is manifesting itself more clearly in the French for-

eign minister's efforts which are deeply appreciated by the Arabs, in general, and the Palestinians, in particular, because France is underlining the Arab and Islamic rights in Arab Jerusalem and in the Palestinian rights in their homeland.

The fact that the U.S. Middle East envoy, Dennis Ross, and the French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette toured the Middle Eastern countries to give impetus to the peace process reflects the U.S.-European concern about this process that has been deadlocked since Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in Israel, said Mohammad Kawash, a writer for Al-Dustour.

The emergence of the headline Israeli premier and his statements that displayed Israel's aggressive policy prompted the U.S. and Europe to undertake fresh efforts to salvage the peace process, said the writer.

Of course the U.S. and Europe must have felt that the peace process was threatened after hear-

ing the Likud-led government in Israel declare its intention to overturn the tables and run all the Israeli-Arab agreements, he added.

The writer said the Arabs must have realised that nothing can be achieved without their own contribution towards ending the deadlock and hence the inter-Arab diplomatic activities and Arab leaders' close contacts and consultations over the issue.

Washington and Paris, which played a role in ending Israel's aggression on Lebanon last April and paved the ground for the Israeli-Hizbollah's deal to stop attacks on civilian positions on either side, are now making moves to force Netanyahu to resume the peace process, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i daily.

Having realised that the Americans are not exerting sufficient pressure on Israel to abide by the peace rules, Paris has chosen to step in and start pressuring Israel into complying with the agreements so far concluded by the Arab and the Israeli sides, said the

writer.

Europe must have felt that its role was continually being weakened, due to Washington's domination of the events in the region, and so it chose to make serious moves now in the hope that it could salvage the peace process on which the future of this region depends.

The Israeli supreme court's decision to allow ultra-religious Jews to perform religious rites in Al

Aqsa Mosque, the third most sacred place for Muslims, falls within the present Likud-led government's extremist policy directed at the Arabs and Muslims, said Al Ra'i daily.

This is a very dangerous precedent that could trigger a new infidelity in the occupied Arab territories and an escalation of tension in this volatile region, the paper added. By provoking the Arabs and Muslims through such decision, the Israeli court is inviting violence and counter-violence in the whole region, it continued.

We view the Israeli court's decision with seriousness, at a time

when the Israeli government is showing intransigence over the peace process, particularly towards the implementation of the Oslo deal with the Palestinians, concluded the paper.

Benjamin Netanyahu has succeeded in deceiving the Arab countries during his visit to Cairo recently, by softening his tone about the peace process, said a writer for Al-Dustour. Taber Adwan said that while in Egypt, Netanyahu gave statements showing that Israel will resume the peace process, but he gave no hint about any change in the Israeli government's programme of holding on to Jerusalem, building Jewish settlements on Arab land and allowing the Palestinians to establish their own state in Palestine.

All that Netanyahu did, said the writer, was rephrasing his statements made upon his victory in the Israeli elections, but the Arabs came to a false conclusion that the Israelis are now adopting a positive stand, said the writer.

He said that regrettably, the Arabs are adapting to Israel's new policies, set by the Likud Party,

and are being driven blindly by misleading statements instead of joining rank and making a collective move to regain their rights.

A writer for Al Ra'i expressed the view that the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, although with very limited results expected to result, is far better than the present situation. Indeed, these negotiations are not expected to earn the Palestinians a great deal but they will not make them lose what they have already gained from previous negotiations, said Rami Abu Ali.

The writer said the Arabs had applauded the suicide bombings in Israel and demanded more such actions against the occupation, but, regrettably, these suicide bombings resulted in the emergence of extremists at the helm of the government in Israel and led to the extremist groups becoming more extreme and violence-oriented against the Arabs, added the writer.

He said that the suicide bombings have resulted in further misery for the Palestinians who must have realised that only through negotiations they can hope to regain part of their rights.

## Israel

Continued from page 1

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## Features

### Pressure, tensions

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# Man — natural born killer

By Robin McKie

IN THE shadows of a narrow gully stands a solitary hunter, spear in hand. For several hours he waits, until a mammoth trudges past. He darts out, plunging his spear into the creature's chest. Critically wounded, it staggers on.

A few minutes later, a second hunter thrusts another spear into the now doomed mammoth. Soon, its carcass is being stripped: its flesh for food, hide for clothing and bones for tools.

Little is discarded, an economy of purpose that suggests Stone Age man lived in harmony with nature, only killing animals when necessary.

According to this argument, man is intrinsically "a noble savage," and has only recently strayed from the path of ecological righteousness, by making cars, turbine generators, oil tankers and factories, and, in the process, acid rain, ozone depletion — and global warming, a problem now destined to turn south Britain into a sweltering desert, the government acknowledged recently.

We must return to a natural lifestyle, it is argued — an idea that sounds attractive but is flatly contradicted by archaeological evidence.

Far from being noble savages, it now transpires that Homo sapiens is a long-term planetary despoiler. The spread of the Sahara, the highlighting of the Mediterranean and the demise of thousands of animal species; all can be blamed on human activity millennia ago.

Take that hunter in the gully. A member of the Clovis — descendants of Asian settlers who occupied the Americas during the last Ice Age — he used spears, of translucent, chert (a hard, crystalline rock), to hunt mastodons, mammoths, and giant sloths.

Scientists had been baffled by the extinction of these mammals — until radiocarbon tests showed they had become extinct with extraordinary rapidity, often in less than 300 years, and all about 11,000 years

## How man has blighted his planet

Far from being a modern phenomenon, environmental catastrophes have followed humans wherever they have wandered across the globe

### Animal overkill

The emergence of modern humans from Africa 100,000 years ago triggered a global bloodbath. In that period, North America has lost 73 per cent of its large mammals, South America 79 per cent, and Australia 86 per cent



Mammoths had no time to evolve defences against hunters, so their extinction was rapid

ago, just as the Clovis began streaming down America. "Large animals disappeared not because they lost their food supply, but because they became one," says Paul Martin, of Arizona University.

At least 75 species of giant herbivore — including woolly mammoths, four-horned antelopes, and giraffe-sized sloths — were wiped out, and in their wake, so were the animals that preyed upon them, such as North American lions and sabre-toothed tigers. New World animals had never encountered

humans before and had no time to evolve defences against "warmly-clad professionals, safely spearing a terrified mammoth, ambushed in a narrow stream bed," as naturalist Jared Diamond puts it. In South America, the slaughter was repeated, with creatures like the Glyptodon (a giant armadillo-like animal), several large rodents, various llama and pigs perishing.

A similar Stone Age bloodbath took place in Australia where dozens of species of large creatures — including giant koalas,

lion-like marsupials, and the Diprotodon, a rhinoceros-sized wombat — were extinguished, while on the South Pacific islands, 2,000 bird species were obliterated. Wholesale slaughter is not a new human attribute.

Even worse has been our treatment of the land. Consider the ancient Greeks, hailed by 19th century romantics as idealistic stewards of an Arcadian paradise. In fact "the evidence mounts for episodes of deforestation and catastrophic soil erosion over the past 8,000 years," states Professor Curtis Runnels,

in Scientific American.

He has studied the Argive, described by Aristotle as being "fruitful" during the time of the Trojan wars, but now a stark, bleached landscape like so much of Greece today. Analyses of pollen deposits, abandoned settlements, and historical records reveal a common picture of the tearing up of trees, and burning — followed by the planting of crops and then massive bouts of erosion as soil, once held in place by deep roots, slipped down hills. "The clearing of land during times of intensive

human settlement gave rise to soil erosion, which in turn caused the people to abandon their settlement," says Mr. Runnels.

This has been repeated endlessly throughout history. For example, a study of the preserved nests of hyraxes, which allowed researchers to trace horticultural changes around the ancient city of Petra, in Jordan. At first, nests were made of oak and pistachio twigs, then shrubs and herbs, and finally grass. At this point, around AD 900, Petra was abandoned, its citizens starved in an erod-

ed landscape of their own making.

Man the hunter, having wiped out most of the planet's major mammals, bird species and more, had become man the farmer, creator of highland, barren landscapes. Across the world, slash-and-burn farming has devastated ecologies. The Sahara's spread is clearly linked to the practice, while entire countryside, including Britain's were stripped long ago of the forests that once covered most of their lands.

"The lesson from our work is that people have a

long history of misusing the land: environmental catastrophes are not an innovation of the modern world," concludes Mr. Runnels in Scientific American.

All that is new is the scale of the damage. Waves of migration have brought new technologies to land where humans have achieved equilibrium with nature after initial bouts of destruction.

Take the Americas. There, native Indians have achieved stable co-existence with the hison, a survivor of the Clovis era. It provided them with food, skins, bones and dung for fuel. Then came the White Man with his guns. Thirty million hison were wiped out, until numbers were reduced to about 500 by the year 1900.

Since then, our environmental woes have only worsened. Earth's population has quadrupled, five billion tonnes of carbon dioxide are burnt as fossil fuel each year, while forests are being destroyed at the rate of six football pitches a minute. Hence reports of that alarming level of global warming which now threatens to alter irrevocably our local ecology and devastate the Third World.

The culprit has not changed, it is just the scale of his operating that has altered. Homo sapiens became a global evolutionary success because he evolved a brain that was capable — but only just — of creating technology. Now it appears that he lacks the final, neuronal ability to control that Promethean creation which is spiralling beyond our intellectual grasp.

We are not repeating the mistakes of history. We are refining them with deadly aplomb.

The Observer

## Israel seals off West Bank

(Continued from page 1)

to return home," an army spokesman said. "The Israeli army has stepped up its patrols across the territories and multiplied surprise controls," he added.

Soldiers and police set up roadblocks and conducted a massive manhunt for the attackers. Israel Radio said the gunmen had apparently fled to the Israeli-occupied West Bank, 16 kilometres to the east.

Uzi Landau, Likud Party chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, said after the attack that the previous government's peace deals with Mr. Arafat had compromised Israel's security.

"The Israeli security services in the last three years cancelled a significant part of its grip on the territories," he told Israel's Channel One television.

Under peace deals signed by the Israeli government

of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, Israeli troops gave Palestinian police control over parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Landau said Mr. Arafat had not done enough to fight "those standing behind terror in his community."

Opposition lawmaker Ori Orr, a former deputy defence minister, urged Likud to "stop looking for people to blame" and take a serious approach to security problems.

"If the government...is going to blame every terror incident in the next three years on the previous government and this is its battle against terror, I will be very troubled," Mr. Orr said on television.

"We demand the Palestinian authority act to quash the terror of the terrorist organisations, without distinction," Mr. Netanyahu said. He ordered that unspecified new measures be taken to improve security

in the area of the attack.

"The prime minister told cabinet ministers he had ordered all security forces to make a special effort to locate the gang that carried out the attack," the Israeli government statement said.

Mr. Arafat's media adviser Nabil Abu Rdainah said: "What does every incident carried out by individuals have to do with the Palestinian National Authority?"

"The Israeli closure of the West Bank is a barbaric act, a provocation and an act of revenge. How can the closure lead to an end of such attacks when it prevents the Palestinian people from making their daily bread?" he asked.

The closure bars thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel. Palestinians view it as a collective punishment.

U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross, who met Mr. Netanyahu in Jerusalem and Mr. Arafat in Gaza on Friday, urged a

firm response to the acts of "terrorism." He said the pursuit of peace and the fight against terror went hand in hand.

Witnesses said the windows of the Israelis' white Fiat Punto were shot out and the interior stained with blood. Israel Radio said a Kalashnikov rifle was apparently used in the attack.

Israel had just eased a five-month-old blockade on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, letting in about 27,500 Palestinian workers — 15,500 from Gaza and 12,000 from the West Bank.

Israel had imposed the closure during a wave of suicide bombings which killed 59 people in February and March and had only begun easing it in recent weeks. Tens of thousands of Palestinians once worked in Israel, usually in low-paying construction and farming jobs.

## Turkey's Erbakan vows hike in minimum wage

(Continued from page 1)

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has vowed to raise the minimum wage, saying workers would get the same "good news" as civil servants who received a 50 per cent pay increase.

"Millions of our people have reached a state where they can't afford their monthly bread," Mr. Erbakan told the Istanbul city council. "Hence, we will give the same good news to the minimum wage earners as we did to civil servants."

The monthly minimum wage, set two years ago, is 8.46 million Turkish liras (\$102) before taxes. Turkey's highest labour federation, Turk-Is, says food costs for a family of four are double that.

Mr. Erbakan's first measure after coming to power four weeks ago in a coalition with Tansu Ciller's conservative True Path Party was the higher-than-expected wage rise for civil servants, criticised by analysts for putting an additional burden on the country's widening budget deficit. Annual inflation in Turkey is running at 83 per cent. The government has forecast its deficit will reach 1,300 trillion liras (\$15.7 billion) in 1996, compared with a previous forecast of 861 trillion liras and the 317 trillion in 1995.

Mr. Erbakan said he would present the minimum wage proposal next week after making an announcement on raising government revenue.

His coalition has announced plans to sell state property, tax interest earn-

ings and impose a six per cent charge on some imports.

"Allah will give to us and we will give to the people. We have not come to take, we have come to give," he said.

Economists say they are sceptical that the government can raise the extra revenues needed to match its sharp increase in spending and will be forced to borrow from an increasingly reluctant market.

Meanwhile, analysts have said that the Turkish government's decision to apply a six per cent import charge will send negative signals to Ankara's European partners without necessarily correcting Turkey's major trade imbalance.

The measure, an early indication of the new Islamist-led coalition's economic strategy, has done little to calm concerns about the effectiveness of an economic package being prepared by the cabinet, they said. "I don't think the charge is a wise measure and I don't think it will put a brake on the increasing imports," said Izzettin Onder, professor of public finance at Bosphorus University in Istanbul.

"The price rises will be shifted to the consumer, pushing up inflation in a vicious circle," he said.

Based on unofficial estimates, the trade deficit in the first half of 1996 stood at almost \$10 billion, compared with \$14 billion in the whole of 1995.

## Arafat, Assad

(Continued from page 1)

The Sharaa-Arafat meeting in Latakia, some 320 km north of Damascus, was attended by Farouq Qaddoumi, head of the PLO's foreign affairs department and Hanan Ashrawi, responsible for higher education in the Palestinian Authority.

Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters by telephone from Latakia that Mr. Arafat would convey a message from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy to the Syrian leadership during the talks with Mr. Assad.

Palestinian sources said the message from Mr. Levy offered to meet Mr. Sharaa at any time and in any place to discuss how to revive peace talks between Syria and Israel.

Mr. Levy became the first minister of headline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to meet Mr. Arafat when both held talks last Tuesday.

Diplomats said Mr. Arafat might have alluded during his discussions in Syria to the activities of several Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups which have vowed to wreck the PLO-Israeli peace deal through violence. Mr. Arafat held initial talks with Mr. Assad on the sidelines of an Arab summit held last month in Cairo.

Asked whether the meeting with Mr. Sharaa paved the way for real reconciliation between Syria and the PLO, Dr. Ashrawi said: "We can say that the ties are now very warm. I don't like to talk about problems and disputes which no longer exist."

## 2 engines found

(Continued from page 1)

any theories."

At one point, he said the explosion was caused by "some sort of bomb, obviously." But he immediately qualified that statement, saying mechanical failure could also be the cause.

While not coming to any hard conclusions about the TWA crash, the U.S. government on

Thursday put into place tight new airline safety measures.

The new steps, effective immediately, were announced by President Bill Clinton after he met with victims' families.

Among the safety improvements are increased searches of carry-on baggage, more screening of checked bags and pre-flight inspections of all international flights.

Mr. Clinton also said the government had tested machines designed to detect plastic explosives, now available only in Atlanta, Georgia, and San Francisco, expressing hope authorities can bring "them on line in all airports in the near future."

As for the search effort, divers are continuing to map out the wreckage and help retrieve bodies, but officials indicated Friday that crew would soon

be attempting to pull up large pieces of wreckage. To date, only an estimated one per cent of the debris has been pulled up.

Mr. Francis said the engines, weighing about 3,100 to 4,000 kilograms were "probably the biggest things that we're going to be lifting."

"They're not the easiest things in the world to lift," he added.

Radisson SAS  
HOTELS WORLDWIDE



## Netanyahu very committed to setting up Middle East Development Bank, Israeli Embassy official asserts

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Israeli embassy here strongly rejected recent media reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was pulling back on the previous government's push towards the creation of an economic regional body in the form of the proposed Middle East Development Bank.

"These assumptions are wrong," an embassy source told the Jordan Times, "the new government wants to promote the Mideast bank, and Mr. Netanyahu himself is very committed to its establishment."

The source asserted that the Israeli prime minister held meetings with members of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcom-

mittee in an effort to convince the American legislators on the "importance of establishing the regional bank as a unique and important tool to promote regional trade and to give a push to economic relations."

Though the U.S. enthusiastically backed the Mideast bank project at last October's Amman economic summit and agreed to fund it with \$260 million, accounting for 21 per cent of the bank's total start-up capital, the Senate Appropriations Committee has not included the American contribution in the bank in Congress' foreign aid bill which is scheduled to be approved in the next few days.

Accompanying Mr. Netanyahu in his recent visit to

Washington, Central Bank of Israel Governor Yacov Frankel also met with members of the Appropriations Committee and "encouraged them to set funds for the participation of the U.S. in establishing the bank," the Israeli embassy told the Jordan Times.

The decision to create the Middle East Development Bank, as a body to finance infrastructure projects in the region, was considered one of the most outstanding results of the Amman economic summit.

According to the statute drafted last November in Cairo by a commission of experts, the start-up capital of \$1.25 billion should be provided, a part from the U.S., supposedly the bank's main backer, by Japan, 9.5 per cent, Russia, six per

cent, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas, four per cent each.

According to media reports, the remaining capital is to be put up by the Netherlands, Canada, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Greece, Malta, Korea, Turkey and Cyprus.

Both the European Union (EU) and the Gulf states expressed their scepticism towards the project during the Amman economic summit, and they have demonstrated no change of heart in this regard yet.

Considering Israeli officials' declarations to the Jordan Times, Israel's stand towards the establishment of the bank has not changed with the new government. "On the contrary, the newly elected prime minister gave new energy and

new impetus to the effort to establish the bank," the Israeli sources asserted.

The Clinton administration has so far strongly favoured the creation of the Middle East Development Bank, but the funds for the start-up capital, in addition to not having been included in the foreign aid bill, were not even part of the House of Representatives' foreign aid proposed legislation for next year.

Refusing to elaborate further on this issue, sources at the U.S. Embassy in Amman told the Jordan Times that "the U.S. stand will be clarified in the course of further meetings and contacts with the new Israeli government and will be more clearly shaped after the November presidential elections."

## U.S. to extend \$200m soft loan to Jordan

By Caroline Faraj and Mahmoud Masharqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United States has agreed to grant a \$200 million soft loan to finance Jordan's imports from the U.S., Finance Minister Marwan Awad said Friday.

The loan, which will be provided by the U.S. Import-Export Bank, was initially approved during the joint Jordanian-American committee meetings held in April in Washington.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Awad said the total Jordanian debts have been brought down to \$6.3 billion after the writing off by some countries of \$773 million of Jordan's debts. He added the United States has written off \$637 million of Jordan's debts to the U.S. and both Britain and France have written off \$71 and \$65 million respectively. He noted that Jordan was currently involved in negotiations and contacts with creditor countries to transfer a proportion of Jordan's total debt to investment projects amounting to 4.5 per cent of the total debt.

Mr. Awad said Jordan has been able to transfer \$287 million of its debts to investments and national projects. In this regard, he referred to the announcement by France's Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, during his visit to Jordan last week, that his country had agreed on swapping of \$137 million, representing 53 per cent of Jordan's debts, into investment projects in the Kingdom.

He said that the debt swap is usually arranged through bilateral agreements by identifying investment projects and methods of implementation.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer, Carroll  
Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) There is an opportunity to improve your financial status today, so be sure to act on it quickly. Get busy putting your ideas to work on some important projects with the assistance of some fellow associates.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) If you use a different method of operation in business today, you can get far better results than you had anticipated. Later this evening will be good for you to get together with fellow associates on some new project.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) The celestial aspects of today can be helpful in getting an important contact more agreeable with your own views in the morning. This evening can be good if you use some suggestions made by knowledgeable persons for your duties.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Be more efficient at your regular career activities and make big headway with them. Later this evening steer clear of one who is tricky and who has some ideas which may not be beneficial to you over all plans for success.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Study the many different ways to gain your creative aims today and choose the best of such. Be careful of your health and do whatever you have to do so that you are not going to get sick in the days ahead.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Study your home well and plan how to improve it in the morning today. Don't be extravagant where pleasure concerned or you could find yourself short of funds when the need arises in the days ahead.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) With the celestial aspects in place today handle communications and travelling intelligently and you will get good results. Later this evening you will be able to complete some important new project if you consult with a bigwig.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Plan how to have a greater income today and be careful in spending money. After a busy day, a close friend could prove disappointing so you should handle any career related activities on your own and trust your judgment.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day today to go after your personal aims and gain them with much success. Be careful in the handling of financial affairs at this time and you will notice some additional funds flowing in your direction.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to Jan. 20) Get together quietly with bigwigs today and know your true position with them. Your friends could be unreliable tonight so handle any new projects by yourself and trust your own instincts for the days ahead.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Be with persons who make you happy today and who are also helpful in gaining your personal desires for your success. This evening will be good for you to have some fun out on the town with some close friends.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You can advance today by joining with bigwigs in any public affairs, so get at this early. Later tonight be of assistance to a confused close friend and he or she will appreciate your kind gesture of support.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye.

## Sri Lanka 'will have to forego certain subsidies for the sake of the country'

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has told her people to be ready for sacrifices, including a cut in food subsidies, if the war against Tamil rebels is to be won.

"We cannot have free goodies and win the war at the same time," Ms. Kumaratunga said on television amid an upsurge of violence in the 13-year-long conflict that has been costing the country five per cent of its annual income.

Ms. Kumaratunga said on television that war expenditures had punched a gaping hole in last November's defence budget, which had already been exceeded by 10 billion rupees (\$181 mil-

lion). "We have come to a crucial stage where we have to decide between the future of the country and subsidies and handouts," Ms. Kumaratunga said. "We will have to forego certain subsidies for the sake of the country," she said.

Officials said Thursday the government was considering a supplementary budget ahead of the next annual budget due in November to seek more funds.

The state-run Daily News quoted Ms. Kumaratunga as listing the subsidies that may have to be cut.

These included seven billion rupees (\$127 million) on wheat flour, 1.5 billion rupees (\$27 million) on fer-

tilisers and a government stipend for the poor costing eight billion rupees (\$145 million).

Financial markets reacted cautiously to Ms. Kumaratunga's remarks.

"If the annual flour subsidy of seven to eight billion rupees is removed, the 10 billion rupee cost overrun of the war can easily be funded with little impact on interest rates," said a Standard Chartered dealer.

The Colombo stock market has been largely unaffected.

"Small retail investors who have been active may slow down after the president said some subsidies will have to go if we are to win the war," a trader at

John Keells said.

Continuing violence, especially attacks in Colombo, are denting government efforts to attract investment, and the important tourist industry is also hurting.

Nature isn't helping. Drought has reduced water levels in reservoirs to dangerously low levels, forcing the government to impose daily power cuts.

Even before this month's rise in violence, deputy finance minister G.L. Peiris said military spending this year could be seven or eight billion rupees (\$127 million or \$145 million) more than the originally estimated 38 billion rupees (\$690 million) budgeted for 1996.

## China asks to join future Middle East Development Bank

CAIRO (AFP) — China has asked to join the future Middle East Development Bank which is due to be launched in November 1997, a senior Egyptian official said in remarks published Thursday.

"China has put in a request to join the bank, and has been supported" by Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority, said Reuf Saad, who is in charge of economic affairs at the foreign minister.

"This request will be studied in the first meeting of the working group" tasked with supervising the creation of the bank, which was approved at an annual Middle East Economic Su-

mmitt in Jordan last November.

He said the working group would meet in several weeks and that progress to set up the bank would be reviewed at the next regional economic summit in Cairo this November.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak refused to confirm that this year's conference would go ahead on the scheduled date after he met last week with Israel's hardline new Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Saad said: "The resu-

mption of the peace process on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks will work in the favour of holding this conference, and will ensure more appropriate conditions."

The Amman conference decided that the bank should be based in Cairo. The bank, with a capital of \$5 billion, is to back regional infrastructure projects and promote private sector development in the Middle East.

## Kuwait foreign jobless rate grows

KUWAIT (R) — Unemployment among expatriates in the wealthy Gulf state of Kuwait rose to 17.1 per cent in 1995 from 16.7 per cent in 1994, planning ministry statistics published by the Arab Times Wednesday showed. The jobless rate among Kuwaitis fell to 1.4 per cent in 1995 from

1.5 per cent in 1994, the English-language newspaper said, without giving the actual numbers of jobless.

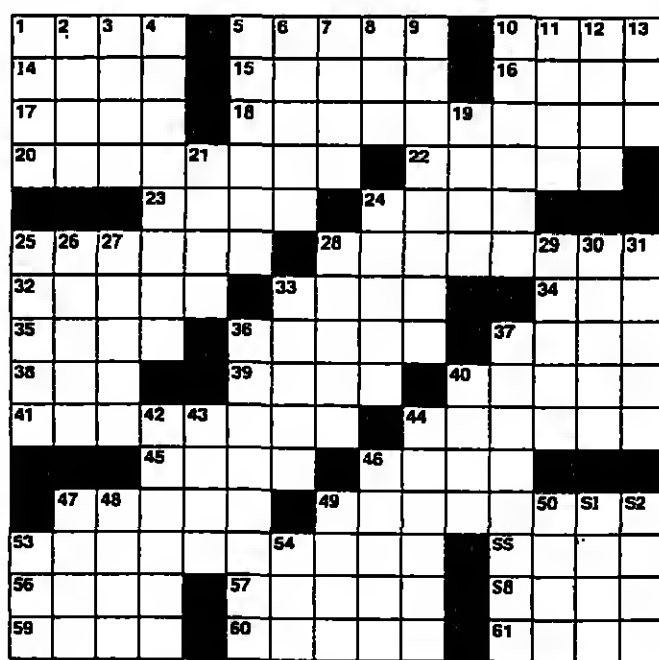
Most foreigners are menial or clerical workers hired on contract from Arab countries, principally Egypt and Syria, and from Asia, mainly India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the

Philippines. There is also a sizeable Iranian community.

Members of parliament have said unemployment is largely the result of an illegal trade in visas that lures migrants from poor countries on promises of jobs that do not exist.

## THE Daily Crossword by Philip J. Anderson

- ACROSS
- 1 Type of party
  - 5 Kid's marble
  - 10 Stable occupant
  - 14 Killer whale
  - 15 Involving the man
  - 16 Addict
  - 17 Ringlet
  - 18 Two-masted sailing ship
  - 20 Discipline, in a way
  - 22 French river
  - 23 Ages and ages
  - 24 San —, Capistrano
  - 25 Settlement
  - 28 River
  - 32 Dress shape
  - 33 To shelter
  - 34 Fury
  - 35 Penpoints
  - 36 Ginger cookies
  - 37 Pack gear
  - 38 First lady
  - 39 Allen and Conway
  - 40 Foolish talks
  - 41 Assign to obscurity
  - 44 More treasured
  - 45 Bright star
  - 46 Pealed
  - 47 New Zealand aborigine
  - 49 Curved timbers
  - 53 Certain ship
  - 55 Pelvic bones
  - 56 "I cannot tell"
  - 57 Errand runner
  - 58 "Dimitis"
  - 59 Fmox
  - 60 Lucerne resident
  - 61 Oddball



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### THURSDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

REBEL STAR THAW  
IRENE IRIS REBA  
PREVAILED IN ADEBY  
ESPY SOFT OBEYS  
OISE SOL  
NIATANT CHIMERA  
AROMA ETON USS  
PUTIN ARANKOROW  
ABE LIFE ANANA  
AMERICA WOOLENI  
LET CHAR  
ETHAN STAR OMIT  
TROIT OUTORPARADE  
CURE VERIT TELEX  
HEAD APSE MOIST

- DOWN
- 1 Hit
  - 2 Loyal
  - 3 Ranch measure
  - 4 Three-masted sailing ships
  - 5 NY city
  - 6 Spiritual teachers
  - 7 Blue dye
  - 8 Playground game
  - 9 Deletions
  - 10 Open rebellion
  - 11 A — able
  - 12 M. Coty
  - 13 Before
  - 19 Approach
  - 21 Sharpen
  - 24 Army vehicles
  - 25 Wickerwork
  - 26 — drab
  - 27 Slander
  - 28 Sweetheart
  - 29 Ceremonial headress
  - 30 Came up
  - 31 Not as old
  - 33 — Bryant, singer
  - 36 Scaffolds
  - 37 Made for ocean voyages
  - 40 Fellow
  - 42 Summured
  - 43 "Pretty Woman" co-star
  - 44 Librarian's stamps
  - 46 Ancient letters
  - 47 Macho
  - 48 Gobi-like
  - 49 Favorite name for a poodle?
  - 50 Hint
  - 51 Cattle, old style
  - 52 Fire
  - 53 Ingot
  - 54 Drag

## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"At work there's this guy we always make fun of because he's such a loser. Today I found out it's me."

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



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# Business & Finance

**AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET**  
BOUJING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI  
TELEPHONE: 602171 / 607379  
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (20/07/1996 - 24/07/1996)  
WEEKLY REPORT



COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER SHARES
ARAB BANK	12.0	1.60	86	2040	447840	219.50	221.00	219.00	219.00	-.50	219.529	1046
BANK OF JORDAN	10.9	0.00	13	16222	48927	3.02	3.20	3.00	3.02	-.02	3.018	156
KID. INST. INV. BK.	64.6	0.00	54	36650	36727	1.92	1.02	.97	.98	+.06	1.002	367
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.0	6.36	10	3028	6652	2.19	2.24	2.19	2.19	-.01	2.204	1026
THE HOUSING BK.	12.8	2.83	32	23782	136655	4.92	5.01	4.79	4.79	-.13	4.906	1095
JOR. INVEST. BANK	19.7	0.00	28	4934	33403	2.71	2.74	2.71	2.72	+.01	2.715	1049
JOR. GEN. BANK	5.7	7.37	40	64710	61791	.96	.97	.95	.95	-.01	.950	323
JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.3	0.00	55	49049	377981	3.60	3.70	3.60	3.60	-.01	3.627	336
UNION BK. SAV. INV.	125.6	0.00	11	1804	3174	1.75	1.80	1.70	1.75	-.05	1.759	1020
JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	17.3	0.00	4	750	2413	3.30	3.25	3.20	3.20	-.10	3.217	1008
BEIT AL-HAL (BEITRA)	1.5	6.20	12	3600	8746	2.35	2.46	2.39	2.39	+.04	2.429	180
AMMAN BANK INV.	-	0.00	131	140809	45020	.31	.34	.31	.32	+.01	.325	939
ARAB BANKING CO.	25.6	0.00	1	450	2228	4.73	4.95	4.95	4.95	-.22	4.951	1005
PHILADEL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	22	6970	8039	1.11	1.17	1.14	1.16	+.05	1.153	1070

C O R		659	354602	90426	INDEX NUMBER : 173.21				CHANGE : - 0.07%		
JORDAN INSURANCE	13.2	3.33	1	1000	3000	9.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	-	3.000 .020
AMMAN SHRS INSUR.	22.2	4.93	2	150	220	1.60	1.52	1.52	1.52	-.09	1.520 .009
JERUSALEM INSUR.	11.4	4.76	3	1180	4655	8.25	4.25	4.20	4.20	-.05	4.232 .102
JOR. FRANCH. INSUR.	6.2	9.09	12	4850	10931	2.27	2.35	2.20	2.20	-.07	2.239 .220
ISRAEL LAND INSUR.	6.5	0.00	2	1180	2586	2.32	2.20	2.20	2.20	-.12	2.209 .148
ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.9	7.62	1	22002	46200	2.00	2.20	2.10	2.10	-.10	2.192 1.100

S E C T O R		21	30324	67730	INDEX NUMBER : 123.47					CHANGE : -0.52%		
JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.5	7.95	122	47255	72352	1.51	1.56	1.51	1.51	-	1.531	.315
IND. ELECTRICITY	9.0	7.25	5	1150	1599	1.32	1.60	1.38	1.38	+.06	1.390	.038
KINEX MINERALS	13.5	5.98	1	250	585	2.40	2.34	2.34	2.34	-.06	2.340	.215
VEHICL. OWNERS FID.	14.8	5.06	3	392	3978	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	-	6.550	.050
ARAB INTL. HOTELS	17.0	3.00	13	4062	20157	4.80	5.00	6.00	5.00	+.20	4.937	.652
SHIPPING LINES	9.2	9.22	7	2132	4634	2.17	2.28	2.17	2.17	-	2.174	.031
HAUL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	39	13900	17751	1.24	1.30	1.24	1.24	-	1.277	.276
REAL ESTATE INV.	21.5	3.28	10	6225	4218	1.01	1.03	.97	.97	-.04	.990	.090
JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.4	0.00	5	2250	1679	.78	.76	.73	.73	-.05	.746	.066
AD-DUSTOUR	30.7	2.79	2	666	5042	7.97	7.57	7.57	7.52	-.40	7.571	.038
RED. EAST HOTELS	79.7	0.00	4	6415	21576	1.84	2.07	1.85	1.85	+.01	1.967	.126
SARNA EDUCATION	-	0.00	34	22624	22907	1.02	1.05	.98	1.02	-.02	1.012	.503
UNIFIED CO.	10.1	5.21	109	60550	78106	1.86	1.95	1.86	1.92	+.06	1.926	.611
UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	7	4150	3991	.95	1.00	.95	.95	-	.962	.083

<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>149913</b>	<b>246972</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER</b>	<b>212.46</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>+0.38%</b>
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<b>ATTACHED</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>-.04</b>	<b>1.210</b>	<b>1004</b>
JOR. CYBERNET FACT.	18.1	3.16	45	21212	67396	3.11	3.23	3.11	3.15	+.05	3.177	1035
JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	30.7	0.00	5	10274	29292	1.85	1.90	1.85	1.85	-	1.851	1023
ARAB POTASH CO.	15.1	4.00	13	4660	21230	5.95	5.10	5.00	5.00	-.05	5.050	1004
JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.3	8.71	74	7481	68428	9.95	9.25	9.05	9.19	-.16	9.147	1117
JORDAN TANNING	7.8	4.37	3	155	1116	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25	-	7.200	1016
INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	29.3	0.60	2	311	719	2.16	2.18	2.18	2.18	+.02	2.172	1007
JOR. MORTGAGE BILLS	8.5	3.73	4	1000	1565	6.45	6.70	6.50	6.70	+.25	6.565	1025
ARAB PHARM. COMP.	18.0	5.83	94	24686	85874	3.40	3.55	3.30	3.43	+.03	3.479	1274
JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	7.6	4.20	13	2450	8530	5.70	6.00	5.75	5.95	+.25	5.983	1056
JORDAN DAIRY	12.9	7.14	1	800	1600	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	-	2.100	1036
JOR. PAPER MANUFACT.	9.9	6.74	18	5930	10449	1.77	1.82	1.78	1.78	-.04	1.796	1032
GENERAL MINING	7.1	10.73	2	200	550	2.62	2.75	2.75	2.75	+.13	2.750	1020
RAFA INDUSTRIES	188.5	0.00	9	2100	3112	1.44	1.51	1.45	1.49	+.05	1.482	1210
DAR AL-DAMA DU. INV.	13.1	4.46	56	14250	44920	4.40	4.67	4.46	4.46	+.08	4.556	1230
ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.4	12.76	69	19400	65540	3.35	3.44	3.27	3.40	+.05	3.378	1323
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	-	0.00	351	675350	343996	.50	.55	.49	.52	+.02	.513	20.465
ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	8.7	8.09	921	213200	270997	1.19	1.31	1.20	1.28	+.09	1.271	9.115
NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	5	1910	2597	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	-	1.350	1048
NATIONAL INDUS.	10.2	8.70	90	77631	53801	.47	.70	.60	.69	+.02	.694	1.296
INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	81	33400	42736	1.25	1.30	1.24	1.25	-.01	1.260	1035
JOR. ROCKWELL INDUS.	182.5	0.00	2	5731	5960	1.09	1.04	1.04	1.04	-.05	1.040	1031
UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	73.0	0.00	16	7250	20074	2.66	2.79	2.71	2.79	+.13	2.769	1043
HAUL. CABLE WIRE. MFG.	18.3	0.00	21	3926	11818	3.60	3.15	2.95	3.01	+.01	3.010	1079
JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	-	0.00	67	15850	14363	.90	.95	.87	.90	-	.904	1036
ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	27.3	0.00	116	46800	67259	3.47	3.55	3.44	3.44	-.01	3.561	1096
KAUNGER INVEST.	42.8	5.04	4	550	649	3.20	3.19	3.17	3.19	-.01	3.180	1028
UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	5.6	10.75	129	49800	82485	1.05	1.54	1.03	1.06	+.03	1.063	1216
JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	10.1	0.00	261	96350	141984	3.44	1.52	1.41	1.44	-	1.465	1.212
JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	20.2	0.00	135	47725	50669	3.04	1.09	1.03	1.04	-	1.060	1097
EL - DAY TRADE WARE	115.7	0.00	29	17766	32016	3.00	2.01	1.80	1.80	-	1.802	1096
IND. TONNAGE	27.5	0.00	81	42800	59021	2.17	1.22	1.16	1.17	-	1.192	1020
UNION CH. & VEG.	28.0	0.00	45	39250	47304	1.34	1.20	1.15	1.17	+.03	1.187	1.135

<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>2139</b>	<b>1407460</b>	<b>1663919</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER</b>	<b>105.02</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>+0.31%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2970</b>	<b>2017299</b>	<b>2978965</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER</b>	<b>118.52</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>+0.14%</b>

## DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Jordan Export Development Corporation evaluates viability of commercial centres

**\*\* THE JORDAN Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation is currently conducting an evaluation of the commercial centres affiliated to it in foreign countries in light of the economic developments in the world, especially the trade liberalisation, and the agreements to be signed soon on joining the World Trade Organisation and the partnership with Europe. According to Bashar Khasawneh, director of promotion and commercial centres at the corporation, the developments and economic relations between Jordan and the countries where the commercial centres are situated, have necessitated a comprehensive evaluation of these centres.**

Mr. Khasawneh said the corporation has closed the commercial centres in Tripoli/Libya and Casablanca/Morocco because the objective of these two centres was accomplished in promoting Jordanian industries and products. "The products are well-established in the countries and, as such, there is no justification to continue operating the two centres," he added.

The corporation is also reconsidering the viability of its centres in Washington and Moscow in view of the intention to set up a Jordanian trade house in the Russian capital. Mr. Khasawneh said, noting that "there are studies to open other new commercial centres in Belgium, Algeria, Damascus and Beirut."

Mr. Khasawneh said a commercial centre and a permanent exhibition for Jordanian industrial products will soon be opened in Dubai. He explained that the centre will be like a trade house showing samples of various Jordanian industrial goods to be exported to all parts of the world. The centre, according to Mr. Khasawneh, will benefit of the position of Dubai as centre for international trade.

By closing the centres in Libya and Morocco, the corporation is left with only eight centres in Tunis, Cairo, Khartoum, Sanaa, Muscat, Baghdad, Moscow and Washington. The corporation is now preparing to participate in a number of international fairs that will be held next month in Frankfurt, Damascus, Tashkent (Uzbekistan). Jordan will also participate in the Gent (Belgium) fair in September and in the Islamic trade fair that will be held in Jakarta (Indonesia) in October (Al dustour)

## REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.4335	0.6434	1.2110	1.0638	1.3740	1.5293	1.6853	0.6335	
DEM Mark	0.6941	1.0000	0.8333	0.8164	1.3547	1.6299	1.8226	0.3332	
GB Sterling	1.5642	1.5642	1.0000	0.8421	1.6784	2.1355	2.3776	0.6581	
CHF Franc	0.6258	0.6258	0.5308	1.0000	1.3338	1.5225	1.6751	0.4153	
JP Yen	0.0082	1.3603	0.8332	1.1170	1.2876	1.4111	1.5341	0.4535	
CAD Dollar	0.7278	0.7278	0.6882	0.8807	1.27	1.1120	1.2116	0.3620	
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	1414.23	0.0977	1.068	0.2884	
NL Guilder	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	65.01	0.6247	0.6111	0.3211	
FR Franc	0.1987	0.2946	0.1277	0.240516	21.50	0.2729	0.3307	0.3700	

Oil	Last	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	19.25	19.85	SA Royal	0.2666	0.3957	0.17159	0.32317	28.9067
WTI	20.25	21.00	AE Dhimah	0.2723	0.40406	0.17521	0.32989	28.5194
Bony	19.25	19.85	KW Dhimah	0.3445	0.52778	0.21523	0.40531	382.582
Dubai	17.55	17.25	BH Dhimah	0.3770	0.59701	0.27078	0.4244	287.804
UL Gas	198.00	199.00	CY Pound	2.162	3.207	1.3904	2.6181	234.177

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-9-	-1-	
Gold (oz)	384.9	385.4	Cncy <td>Month<td>Months<td>Months<td>Months<td>Year</td></td></td></td></td>	Month <td>Months<td>Months<td>Months<td>Year</td></td></td></td>	Months <td>Months<td>Months<td>Year</td></td></td>	Months <td>Months<td>Year</td></td>	Months <td>Year</td>	Year	
Silver (oz)	5.11	5.13	US\$	5.31	5.50	5.71	5.86	6.03	
Platinum (oz)	398.3	400.3	GBP	5.71	5.71	5.71	5.87	6.00	
AL (3 Months)	1508	1512	JPY	0.37	0.57	0.78	1.03	1.06	
CU (3 Months)	1885	1990	DEM	3.12	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.31	
Zinc (3 Months)	1042	1045	FRF	3.00	3.68	3.76	3.87	3.97	
Lead (3 Months)	006	011	CHF	2.51	2.37	2.43	2.82	2.86	
NI (3 Months)	7035	7050	ITL	6.65	0.53	0.28	0.21	0.15	



## Egerszegi, Popov swim into history

ATLANTA (R) — Krisztina Egerszegi and Alexander Popov performed rare Olympic feats and games heroine Janet Evans said goodbye to swimming on a memorable evening in the pool Thursday.

Hungary's Egerszegi claimed an historic fifth gold and became only the second swimmer to win a single individual event at three Olympics with a majestic victory in the women's 200 metres backstroke in which no rival came close to challenging her.

Russia's Popov, supreme in sprint freestyle for the past five years, pipped American rival Gary Hall for the second time in four days, winning the 50 metres freestyle and becoming the first man to win the 50 and 100 titles at two successive Olympics.

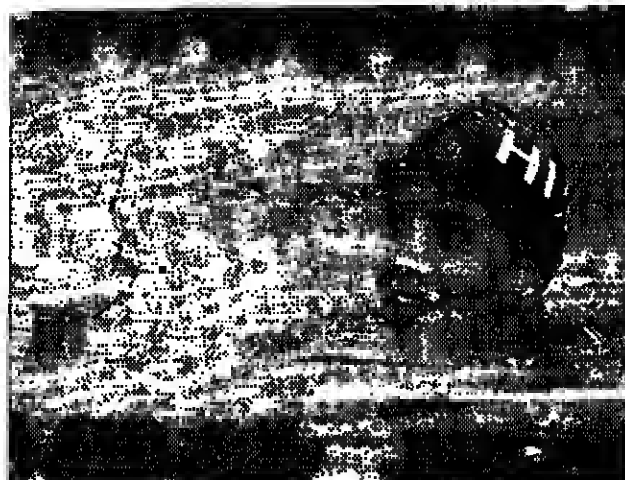
Evans was never in with a realistic chance of winning the 800 metres freestyle for the third consecutive Olympics but the American was hailed by her successor Brooke Bennett as "the queen of distance swimming."

It was left to Egerszegi to pull off the triple and match the feat accomplished previously only by Australian Dawn Fraser, who won the 100 metres freestyle in 1956, 1960 and 1964.

Egerszegi is the first swimmer to amass five individual Olympic swimming titles, having won her first at just 14 in the 1988 Seoul Games and completed a 1992 triple in the 100 and 200 backstroke and 400 individual medley.

"Five gold medals — all of them are very nice but naturally the last was the best one," said Egerszegi.

She won by a vast margin of 4.15 seconds from American Whitney Hedgepeth, her superiority over all rivals established in the morning's heats and her



Hungary's Krisztina Egerszegi celebrates a gold medal win in women's 200m backstroke competition (Reuters photo)



Russian Olympic gold medalist swimmer Aleksandr Popov raises his bouquet as he acknowledges the crowd at the men's 50m freestyle ceremony during the XXVI Summer Olympics (Reuters photo)

victory thoroughly predictable.

The men's 200 metres individual medley also brought gold for Hungary, but Atilla Czene's victory over Finnish world champion Jani Sievinen was an utter surprise.

In the presence of President Clinton, The United States took their title tally to 10, with Bennett winning the opening 800 freestyle and an American quartet prevailing in the closing women's 4x200 freestyle relay, making it five relays out of five for the host nation.

Evans, twice world champion and twice Olympic champion in the 800, could manage only sixth place, more than 11 seconds behind Bennett.

But 16-year-old Bennett gracefully declined to assume pre-eminence. "I think Janet will always be the queen of distance swimming," she said.

"It's nice to be respected but it's even nicer to hear that from someone who's just won an Olympic gold medal," Evans responded.

Evans, triple champion at the 1988 Seoul Games in the 400 and 800 metres freestyle and 400 individual medley, had the satisfaction of leaving the sport with her 400 and 800 freestyle world records intact.

Bennett won in eight minutes 27.89 seconds, more than 11 seconds outside the 1989 world mark of Evans, with Germany's Dagmar Hase second (8:29.91) and Kirsten Vlieghuis of the Netherlands third (8:30.84).

"Records are made to be broken but every year that passes I get a little more possessive of them," Evans said.



United States 4 x 200m women's freestyle relay team swimmers (left to right): Sheila Taormina, Trina Jackson and Cristina Teuscher celebrate poolside after their gold medal effort in Atlanta. Final relay swimmer Jenny Thompson finishes below them in the water (Reuters photo)



USA swimmer Brooke Bennett shows off her gold medal after winning the women's 800 meter final. Bennett won with a time of 8:27.89 (Reuters photo)

## Tunisian loses match for using banned glue

ATLANTA (AFP) — Tunisia's Sonia Touati became the first player at the Olympics to fall foul of table tennis' strict glue policy on Thursday.

Her bat was tested just minutes before she was due to play Taeko Todo of Japan and the concentration of vapour was found to be too high. Todo was given a walkover and Touati's bat was confiscated.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) allows players to use two types of glue to stick rubbers. The more toxic substances can add to the spin and speed put on the ball by more than 20 per cent.

South Korea's Kim Taek-Soo was disqualified from

the men's singles at last year's world championship in China for using a banned glue.

"Touati's name was drawn at random to have her bat tested but she did not appear," said Bas Den Breejen, the chairman of the ITTF media committee. "Her bat was tested just before she was due at the table and the concentration of vapour was found to be too high - it was like bicycle glue."

"The bat was confiscated and she forfeited the match. But she will be able to play her next game with another bat."

## What they're saying at the Olympics

ATLANTA (AFP) — What people are saying at the Atlanta Olympics:

"This is a kid that's 19-years-old and he's taking it real hard especially at this kind of level. It's not like he's been at this level every other day like the Cubans have. Right now it's the end of the world for him" — American boxing coach Al Michel explaining bantamweight Zahir Raheem's childish behaviour after being beaten.

"I hit him with four or five combinations in a row, I know I won the fight. Great champions have been beaten in the Olympic games and I plan to go into the pro game and dominate." — American welterweight Fernando Vargas after losing to Romanian Marian Simion.

"Being world champion and world record holder is wonderful but I know from the feeling inside me just how much bigger this is compared with anything else." — Triple jumper Jonathan Edwards on how important an Olympic gold medal is to him.

"He should not have done that. He is biased and killed her chances of reaching the last 16. It is disgraceful." — North-Korean official's opinion of the Hong Kong umpire, who deducted three points from North Korean table tennis star Kim Hyong-Mi for grunting.

"We told her we were very proud of her and that it was a very brave and courageous thing she did and she should remember that for the rest of her life." — Kerri Strug's mother on her daughter's decision to finish competing in the gymnastics despite having a severely sprained ankle.

## Strug's 10-second leap could bring fame for life

ATLANTA (R) — Andy Warhol said everyone would be famous for 15 minutes. Gymnast Kerri Strug took just 10 seconds to vault to a fame that could last a lifetime.

President Bill Clinton phoned her, television talk shows queued up for interviews and sponsors said she could earn up to \$5 million. Life will never be the same again.

All this because of a brief moment of what Clinton called "miraculous" courage when she completed a near perfect vault on Monday night to clinch a gold medal for the U.S. Team despite the searing pain of a sprained ankle.

"It has been an amazing 24 hours," said her father, heart surgeon Burt Strug. "We have experienced every emotion you can name," he told CNN television.

Her mother Melanie wanted the fiercely driven little perfectionist to be a ballerina. Instead she picked the gruelling world of gymnastics. "We were devastated. We thought that was ridiculous. She's our baby," she said.

The New York Times said of the leap that secured the U.S. Gymnasts their first women's team medal: "The summer Olympics achieved its highest, most emotional, most poignant moment."

"She is the owner of the most scrutinised sprained ankle in the land," USA Today said in a cover story.

Strug has rocketed from relative obscurity to face the insatiable curiosity of the flag-waving American media.



President Clinton, first lady Hillary (rear) and daughter Chelsea (left, rear) pose with the U.S. women's gymnastics team in Atlanta. From left to right: Jaycie Phelps, Shannon Miller, Dominique Dawes, Amy Chow, Dominique Moceanu, Kerri Strug and Amanda Borden. The Clintons came to Atlanta to watch the gymnastics competition (Reuters photo)

One talk show host asked the 18-year-old "how are you?"

"Fine, I just talked to Bill Clinton."

"What does it feel like to talk to the president?"

"I never had that opportunity before."

Dozens of new doors are opening for Strug, a virtual unknown long in the shadow of more famous teammates.

Before Atlanta, Strug expressed the modest ambition to attend UCLA college in California and compete on its gymnastic team.

She had no agent, accepted no appearance fees.

What she said in an interview before the games has become ironic history now.

"Unless you're Mary Lou Retton, in the right place at the right time with the right personality, you're not going to be on a wheatie box and have all these endorsements. Your education will last you your whole life."

Retton was the darling of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles where she won the women's all-around.

Strug is now racing

against time to be fit for next week's individual events.

She made the Barcelona Olympics team at the age of 13 under the wing of coach Bela Karolyi, a svengali to some, a sporting genius to others. After he swept her up and on to the podium, he captured the essence of a sport that has itself become a media star: "Those fragile-looking but lion-hearted kids are capable of doing things that nobody can believe. Kerri has come a long way."



## JTV's Olympic coverage on Channel 2 for Saturday

Athletics	16:05 - 21:30
Rowing finals	16:55 - 19:45
Canoeing slalom	16:55 - 00:40
Cycling finals	18:10 - 21:50
Boxing preliminary	20:25 - 22:55
Summary A (Channel 1)	21:40 - 22:50
Beach volleyball ladies final	22:10 - 24:00
Weightlifting (91-kg final)	22:50 - 01:00
Athletics 4 finals	00:20 - 05:10
Summary B (Channel 1)	01:15 - 02:15
Boxing preliminaries	02:55 - 05:25
Diving (ladies platform final)	04:55 - 06:45
Summary C (Channel 1)	07:00 - 08:00

## Olympics schedule for Saturday, July 27

<b>ATHLETICS</b>	<b>SHOOTING</b>
Women's heptathlon, 100 hurdles	Men's 50-metre free rifle three position, prelims to finals
Men's 800, 1st round	Men's skeet, prelims to finals
Women's heptathlon, high jump	<b>SOCCER</b>
Women's 800, 1st round	Men's quarterfinals
Women's hammer throw, qualifying	<b>SOFTBALL</b>
Women's heptathlon, shot put	Australia vs. Canada
Men's triple jump, finals	Netherlands vs. Puerto Rico
Women's 100, semifinals	U.S. vs. China
Men's 100, semifinals	Japan vs. Taiwan
Men's 400, 2nd round	<b>TABLE TENNIS</b>
Women's javelin throw, finals	Men's singles, prelims
Women's 400, 2nd round	Women's singles, 2nd round
Women's 100, finals	Men's doubles, quarterfinals
Men's 100, finals	Women's doubles, semifinals
Women's heptathlon, 200 Women's 10,000 1st round	
<b>BASEBALL</b>	
Nicaragua vs. Japan	
Cuba vs. Italy	
U.S. vs. Australia	
<b>BASKETBALL</b>	
(Women)	
Zaire vs. South Korea	
Ukraine vs. Cuba	
Japan vs. Italy	
China vs. Brazil	
Australia vs. U.S.	
Russia vs. Canada	
<b>BEACH VOLLEYBALL</b>	
Women's semifinals	
Women's gold and bronze medal match	
<b>BOXING</b>	
Featherweight, light middleweight, and super heavyweight 2nd round	
<b>CANOE &amp; KAYAK</b>	
<b>CYCLING</b>	
Men's sprint, 8th place to semifinals	
Women's individual pursuit, semifinals	
Men's team pursuit, semifinals and finals	
Women's sprint, finals	
<b>DIVING</b>	
Women's platform, semifinals and finals	
<b>EQUESTRIAN</b>	
Open, team dressage 1st and 2nd round	

<b>TEAM HANDBALL</b>	
(Men)	
European champion vs. Algeria	
Switzerland vs. Kuwait	
Sweden vs. Russia	
Germany vs. Egypt	
Croatia vs. U.S.	
France vs. Cuba	
<b>TENNIS</b>	
Men's and women's singles, 3rd round	
Men's and Women's doubles, 2nd round	
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>	
(Men)	
Russia vs. Italy	
Yugoslavia vs. Netherlands	
Argentina vs. Cuba	
Bulgaria vs. Poland	
Brazil vs. U.S.	
South Korea vs. Tunisia	
<b>WATER POLO</b>	
6th-place to semifinals	
<b>WEIGHTLIFTING</b>	
Men's 91kg, Group B	
Men's 91kg, Group A finals	
<b>YACHTING</b>	
Men's Mistral and Women's Mistral 7th and 8th races; Men's 470 and Women's 470 5th and 6th race; Men's Finn final	

## Judo gold for France

ATLANTA (AFP) — Marie Claire Restoux of France beat South Korea's up-and-coming Hyun Sook-Hee on points for the women's 52-kilo featherweight gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics on Thursday.

The 1993 world champion, Legna Verdecia of Cuba, outpointed Barcelona Olympic gold medalist Almudena Munoz of Spain to win a bronze medal.

Japan's Noriko Sugawara floored former European champion Larysa Krause of Poland for a knockout ippon to take the other bronze medal.

After the narrow win a relieved Restoux, 28, the 1995 world champion and this year's European champion, bounced for joy and leapt into her coach's arms.

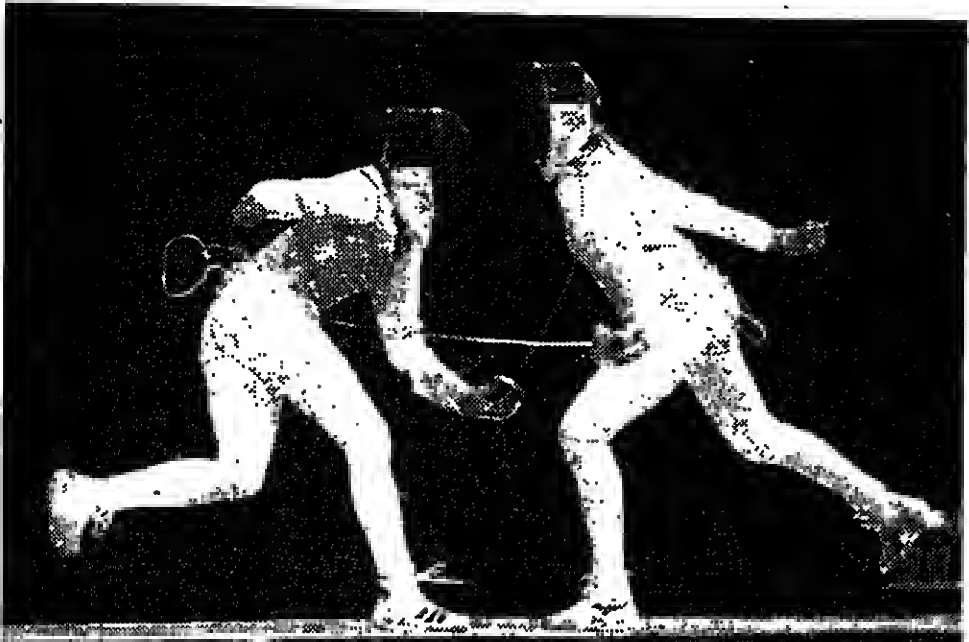
Hyun, 23, won her first international title at the Hiroshima Asian Games in 1994 and took the World Student Games gold last year.

<b>TODAY AT</b>	<b>CINEMA</b> TEL: 634144 <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau .... in <b>Braveheart</b> winner of 6 Academy Awards Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	<b>CINEMA</b> TEL: 699238 <b>PLAZA</b> Adel Imam stars in <b>Sleeping in Honey</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 <b>Toy Story</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>CINEMA</b> TEL: 677420 <b>CONCORD</b> <b>CONCORD "1"</b> Jim Carrey & Jeff Daniels Dumb and Dumber Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>Braveheart</b> Shows: 3:45, 6:45, 9:45	<b>Amman Theatre &amp; Cinema</b> TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m.	<b>Nabil &amp; Nisham's Theatre</b> TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY <b>Arab Human Rights</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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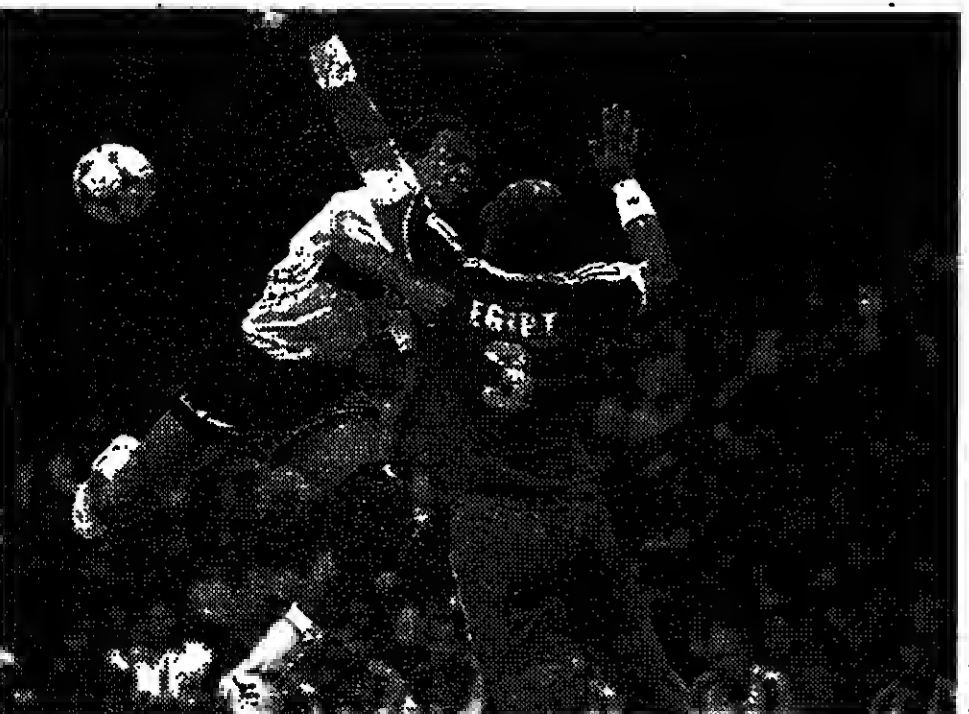




USA's Andre Agassi hits a return to Slovakia's Karol Kucera, during their tennis match at Stone Mountain. Agassi defeated Kucera in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4 (Reuters photo)



Italy's Francesc Borolozzi-Borella scores winning touch against Romania's Laura Badea during Womens Team Foil Fencing at the Georgia World Congress Center. Italy won gold (Reuters photo)



Brazilian Ivan Pinheiro attempts to score as the ball flies towards Egypt's Ahmed Ali, July 25 during their men's basketball match at the Georgia World Congress Centre. Egypt defeated Brazil 31-20 (Reuters photo)

## Tearful end for American gymnasts

ATLANTA (R) — More than four years' worth of emotion poured out of American gymnasts Shannon Miller and Dominique Dawes on Thursday, moments after each lost their chance of the Olympic all-around title during their floor exercises routines.

Both made mistakes and both burst into tears immediately after coming off the mat, knowing the dream was over. Dawes was leading at the time and she knew immediately her challenge was over. The tears started flowing even before her floor score of 9.00

was posted. Floor exercises also spelled the end for Miller, all-around silver medalist in Barcelona four years ago. She stepped out-of-bounds on her last pass, a full-twisting double back somersault, scored 9.475, and finished eighth.

Lilia Podkopyeva of Ukraine won the women's individual all-around gymnastics gold medal. Gina Gogean of Romania took the silver and fellow Romanian Simona Amanar and Lavinia Milosovici tied for third place to each win a bronze.

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## Why Atlanta stars are asking for double trouble

ATLANTA (AFP) — A string of the world's top athletes stars are asking for double trouble at the Atlanta Olympics.

Many, according to their rivals, will regret the decision.

Michael Johnson heads the list of competitors taking up the challenge of trying to win two individual titles, something no one managed at Barcelona four years ago. The American takes pride of place among the contenders if only because the entire games programme had to be redrafted to accommodate him.

No man has ever won the 200 and 400m titles. Johnson, however, produced the perfect dress rehearsal at the world championships last year.

Buich Reynolds, the 400m world record holder, and Frankie Fredericks, the world silver medalist who will himself attempt a 100/200m double, have both questioned whether the schedule should have been changed for one person.

Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie and Wang Junxia of China, the world's premier distance runners will also stand out among others.

Both are lined up for a 5,000m and 10,000m double and both will have phenomenal problems to overcome, with the humidity and the bone-hard surface at the Atlanta centennial stadium counting heavily against them.

Moroccan rival Khalid Skah warns: "I don't think he can manage to do it. I think it's very tough to try it, and there are a lot of people running very fast."

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, meanwhile, the world's best female all-round athlete, is hiding to compete for both long jump and heptathlon for the fourth Olympics in a row.

She managed the double in Seoul eight years ago and went close with a gold and bronze in Barcelona. But a second place in the U.S. heptathlon trials and a heavily-bandaged performance in the long jump suggests her body could rebel this time.

At least she made the starting line. Germany's Holke Drechsler, with the same double on her mind, picked up a training injury and never recovered.

American Gail Devers has also been dogged by injuries this year but believes she could retain her Barcelona 100m title while also attempting the hurdles — a double she would have carried off four years ago if she had not fallen over the final hurdle.

Merlene Ottey, like Fredericks, will attempt a sprint double.

## Jordan's judo disqualification — more to it than meets the eye

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The mystery surrounding the disqualification of one of Jordan's athletes at the Atlanta Olympics is unfolding with both athlete and coach confessing to irregularities connected with the case.

Walid Al Awazem, who carried the Jordanian flag at the opening ceremony, was supposed to represent the Kingdom in Judo's 94-kilogramme category but was disqualified when he failed to show up at the pre-competition weigh-in last Sunday. Officials and unofficial details however show that the Awazem case goes beyond the weigh-in blunder.

While officials and sports fans in Amman followed the event at a loss of who to blame for the flaw which cost Jordan a chance to compete in the discipline for the first time, a statement by Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh now in Atlanta gave a series of surprising details which point out to deceitful actions on the part of Awazem and his coach Khaled Al Rifai.

As it turned out, a routine medical check of Jordanian athletes in the Olympic village showed Awazem to be suffering from injury which had required medication and physiotherapy for four days prior to the competition.

As the competition drew nearer, disturbing facts began to surface with Awazem telling delegation officials that the coach, a U.S. resident assigned by the Jordan Judo Federation (JJF) to oversee the player for financial reasons, had actually been his student and was less experienced than him.

When the head of Jordan's delegation Dr. Ismat Al Kurdi told Awazem that the draw had put him in contention with a world class Dutch champion, the player was evidently disturbed.

On the day of the competition, Dr. Kurdi made sure

both players and coach went to the weigh-in early; they first went to the venue but were told to go to the Olympic Village. Although they had time to go back, they apparently chose not to and missed the official weigh-in which led to Awazem's disqualification. The minister of youth contacted the International Judo Federation to enable the player to participate thinking that there was a mix-up. It turned out that coach Rifai had signed the set of regulations and weigh-in times on three different occasions and was clearly aware of the rules.

The coach explained that he had not carefully read the latest set of regulations and admitted he was responsible for Awazem being late for the weigh-in.

And the story does not end there. As it turns out, a test run in Amman on the physical fitness of Awazem on July 7 showed that he needed to improve his fitness which was below average. Furthermore, Awazem's medical tests in Atlanta made it clear that the player had concealed a recent injury, sustained most probably during his training period in Syria before departure.

Another puzzling point is the fact that Awazem, who had suggested to the Jordan Judo Federation and the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) to name Rifai, his coach while knowing that he was not qualified for the job.

Even more disturbing is the fact that Al Awazem was not the player slated to represent Jordan in Judo. JOC Technical Committee chairman Awwad Haddad told the Jordan Times Friday that his committee had received the names of two players Yusef Sa'di and Awazem. The Judo federation put Sa'di first and Awazem second.

"I was surprised to find out that Awazem was the one who got the chance to go. Sa'di had priority because he was better qualified. I cannot understand what happened when the JOC sent the applications," he said.

## Women's Basketball Championship Jazireh score big win over Orthodoxi

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's reigning women's basketball champions Al Jazireh Thursday displayed why they were the favourites to keep their title in the three-team competition when they beat former champs Al Orthodoxi 72-54.

The match, held at Orthodoxi's court was almost marred by a high number of fouls and constant protests of the level of refereeing by the players and coaches of both teams.

However, the match was a delight to watch for the

game's officials as it brought together a promising combination of the Kingdom's senior and junior national team players who fought it out in: until the final moment of the match as Al Jazireh opened their 7-point lead from 59-52 to win by an 18-point margin at 72-54.

Al Jazireh were represented by a strong lineup who got a boost with the participation of centre Jumana Salti rebounding, and scoring to expand her team's lead at the end of both halves of the match.

Al Orthodoxi's young lineup, however, are to be commended for their play.

The team is playing without its leading senior players for the first time and are mostly under-18 players who played in the Asian championship recently.

Al Jazireh led 29-23 before a final three minute surge led by centres Salti and Rana Hussein put them ahead 37-28 at half-time.

Al Jazireh expended their lead 47-32 through star forward Suhair Makusi, before two consecutive three pointers by Al Orthodoxi's promising Rawan Khoulil narrowed the gap to 47-41.

With six minutes remaining Al Orthodoxi were trailing by ten points 52-42 and

narrowed the gap to 55-48 scoring by Hind Al Ghouri and Yara Kheir.

However, with Salti joining the action in the last 4 minutes Al Jazireh outscored their opponents 17-4 with Salti scoring 10 to end the match 72-54.

The defeat was Al Orthodoxi's second after they lost to Al Ahli in the opening match 69-63.

Al Jazireh meet Al Ahli in the final match of the first round Sunday.

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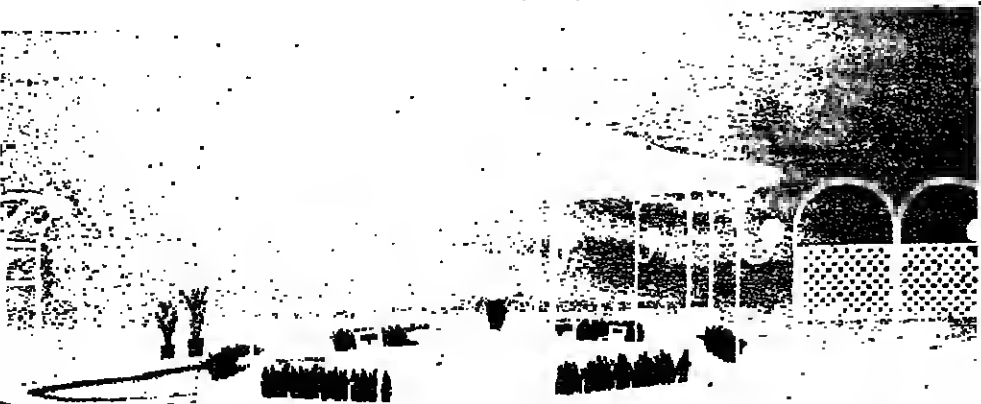
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## Turkish government issues ultimatum as hunger strike claims eighth victim

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's prison crisis took a dramatic turn Friday as Justice Minister Sevkettin Kazan warned the army could be brought in to end a long-running hunger strike that has claimed eight lives.

Mr. Kazan said the seventh inmate died Friday in Bayrampasa prison in Istanbul on the 68th day of the strike by 290 leftist inmates for better living conditions.

The eighth, a 22-year-old woman, died in a prison in the western town of Canakkale, judicial officials there said.

Compounding matters for the new Islamist-led government, a statement by the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) said its 10,000 inmates in Turkish jails would also join the hunger strike.

Turkey's health ministry announced it was setting up crisis cells across the country.

"This is my final appeal, hand over the strikers (...), stop these summary executions," Mr. Kazan told a news conference in Ankara, referring to the strike leaders.

"Don't force us to organise an operation by the security forces," he warned.

"We still want to use persuasion ... a (military) intervention could lead to the deaths of 40 to 60 inmates," Mr. Kazan added.

Teams of doctors and psychologists were trying to persuade the strikers to give up, but the prisoners were well organised.

Mr. Kazan repeated earlier accusations that the hunger strikes were orchestrated by the leaders of extreme-left underground groups, and that they were therefore to blame for the deaths.

The latest man to die was Tahsin Yilmaz, 37, who



Turkish Minister of Justice Sevkettin Kazan

belonged to an extreme-left organisation, sources close to the strikers said.

The woman was identified as Ayşe İdil Ermen. She was serving a three-year term for belonging to a far-left group.

The first death in the hunger strike occurred on Sunday.

The health ministry said the crisis cells, in 38 provinces grouping a total of 43 prisons, will monitor the physical and mental health of the strikers and organise medical care.

It put the number of inmates on a full hunger strike at 314, although Mr. Kazan said there were 290. The total number of strikers is 2,070, it said, with most only going without food for limited rota-

ing periods.

About 60 prisoners were in "serious" condition, it added, although the Yeni Yüzyıl daily put the figure at 68.

The strikers want better living conditions, better medical care, the closure of the top-security Eskişehir prison in central Turkey where inmates are put in isolation cells, and transfers to their home town jails.

The PKK, which is fighting for an independent homeland in southeast Turkey, said: "More than 10,000 prisoners of war in 40 jails are beginning indefinite hunger strikes."

Its statement, through the DEM agency in Cologne, Germany, said the action could turn into a full-scale hunger strike to death.

At Bayrampasa, the strikers had fax machines, portable telephones, weapons and pharmaceuticals for medical care, Mr. Kazan said, adding the jail had not been searched for a year.

The prison is in the hands of clandestine organisations," he went on. "The organisations have sympathisers among the wardens and the ministry is preparing to launch an investigation."

Mr. Kazan said he wanted a parliamentary inquiry opened into two former justice ministers, Seyfi Oktay and Mehmet Mogultay, whom he said were to blame for the crisis.

Three big Turkish unions called for improved rights for the inmates, urged the strikers "not to cause further loss of life" and called on the government to open talks "with the aim of ending the hunger strikes."

The only official comments on the crisis have come from Mr. Kazan. He dismissed it as a "publicity stunt," and called for "patience" while insisting Eskişehir prison will not close.

The government believes using isolation cells helps crack the influence of leftist organisations holding sway in the crowded dormitories of other jails.

The crisis has sparked calls from the European Union, France, Germany and Italy for government action to improve living conditions in the prisons.

EU sources said the European Parliament threatened to block all financial aid to Turkey if conditions were not improved. "Our budgetary powers enable us to block all finance for Ankara, step by step," the source said.

## Opposition challenges Lebanese election law

BEIRUT (R) — Opposition parliamentary deputies on Friday threw down a challenge to Lebanon's Syrian-backed government, petitioning the constitutional court to cancel a controversial election law rammed through parliament this month.

The rare act of defiance by 10 deputies — six Christians and four Muslim leftists — could cause cancellation of parliamentary elections due to begin on Aug. 18 and plunge the country into confusion if the court rules against the law.

Its decisions have the force of law and cannot be appealed against.

A member of the court told Reuters it should issue a ruling within 25 days and could do so earlier, before the vote begins.

Mikhail Daher, a Maronite Christian deputy once touted to become president of Lebanon, told Reuters he presented the petition on Thursday to the 10-member constitutional council created last year to deal with constitutional issues.

The petition is the first time the court has been asked to rule on the constitutionality of a law.

A copy obtained by Reuters says the law violates the con-

stitutional principle of equality for all citizens.

The law set up different kinds of election districts for the Christian heartland of Mount Lebanon and the rest of the country, causing an immediate Christian outcry and calls by some Christian leaders for an election boycott.

The law carved up the governorate of Mount Lebanon, the only area where Christians are in an overwhelming majority, into six election districts while Lebanon's other four governorates will vote as single constituencies.

This is widely seen as intended to ensure the election of Walid Jumblatt, a key government ally and leader of the Druze minority, who was likely to be swept aside by the Christians if Mount Lebanon voted as a single constituency.

It also makes election more difficult for opposition Christians, who complain that Lebanon is losing its sovereignty and demand the withdrawal of Syria's 35,000 troops from the country.

Political analysts say opposition candidates would sweep the board if Mount Lebanon was a single constituency.

Opposition politicians and

Christian bishops have denounced the law as unconstitutional and biased. Some also said it was intended to provoke a repeat of the Christians' massive election boycott in 1992 which resulted in a parliament overwhelmingly dominated by pro-government deputies.

Christians are now deeply split over whether to boycott the current elections.

The deputies lodged the petition after the Beirut lawyers' guild last week denounced the law as unconstitutional and urged deputies to petition for its repeal.

"We ask the court to accept our appeal to cancel all the effects of the appealed items in the law, to consider the law unconstitutional and to decide to cancel it totally or partially," the petition said.

Analysts said Lebanese politics could be thrown into confusion if it was successful.

"This comes in a very delicate political context, we are living in a very tense political situation," university professor and political analyst Antoine Haddad told Reuters.

"The country is divided over this law and is very tense...The election could be cancelled or postponed and this would be very dangerous for the country," he said.

## Opposition party demands release of two members detained last week

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian opposition party has denounced the arrest last week of two of its leaders, who the party claims were detained in relation to their opposition of the government's plans to hike the price of bread.

In a statement issued Thursday, the Jordan People's Democratic Party condemned the arrest and called on the government to release its leaders.

Mithqal Zenati and Mohammad Khalil were among more than 100 political activists and leaders of a coalition of nine parties who participated in the July 21 sit-in in front of Parliament to protest the government's move.

Mr. Zenati, a farmer, was interrogated twice by the security forces after the July 21 sit-in before being apprehended on July 24, a family

member claimed.

He told the Jordan Times Friday that the authorities searched Mr. Zenati's house in Wadi Yabes area in the Jordan Valley and seized some petitions that had signatures on them.

Mr. Khalil was preparing a sit-in for Friday in the town of Salt to protest the increase in "bread" prices, Agency France Press (AFP) reported Friday.

A spokesman at Hasbi told the Jordan Times Thursday that other party members, Mohammad Abu Ruh and Mohammad Abu Marrar, were also arrested by police following the sit-in and were released Wednesday.

According to an Islamic Action Front (IAF) source, security forces apprehended three of its members following the Sunday sit-in.

The opposition political parties, along with the unions and women's groups, called for the sit-in in front of Parliament in reaction to the

government's announcement that it will raise the price of bread to 250 fils a kilo from 85 fils.

Forty-one deputies have also signed a motion asking the government to reconsider the increase in bread prices.

Parliament Wednesday said it will devote its Sunday's regular session to discuss the government's policy on bread subsidies.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has said his government will not go back on its plans concerning the bread issue.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher also said that bread prices had to be increased to reduce the budget deficit, but stressed that the government would compensate people for the higher cost of bread. The government has pledged that each Jordanian, including displaced Palestinians and refugees, would receive an annual wage increase to offset the hike in bread prices.

## Libyan referee missing since riots

VALLETTA (R) — A Malta-based Libyan referee who was in charge of a soccer match in Libya which turned violent nearly two weeks ago has not returned to the island and his fate is not known, a Maltese newspaper said on Friday.

Abdullah Salem, 35, lived and worked in Malta and regularly acted as referee for Maltese first division soccer matches. Earlier this month, he travelled to Libya to take charge of the ill-fated match between Al Itihad and Al Ahly in Tripoli.

The Times newspaper said that although some media

reports said he was killed when rioting broke out during the match, Maltese sources indicated he may still be alive.

The trouble broke out after Mr. Salem awarded a dubious goal to the team which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's sons supported. Spectators started chanting anti-Qadhafi slogans and bodyguards of the Libyan leader opened fire. Libyan television footage has shown Mr. Salem being chased by angry supporters.

Diplomats in Tripoli said 20 people were believed to have been killed in the incident.

Colleagues of Mr. Salem in Malta said they believed he was still alive, but this has not been confirmed.

Malta's ambassador to Libya, George Doublesin said he was unsure of Mr. Salem's condition.

"I have received conflicting reports but he was definitely manhandled by members of the crowd. The television footage showed him being chased by the crowd and I have heard reports that his leg was broken," he told the newspaper. Mr. Salem had lived in Malta for four years and was an official of the Malta Football Association.

## Jews detained at Jerusalem shrine

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli police detained several right-wing Jewish activists who on Thursday tried to force their way into Jerusalem's Al Haram Al Sharif, site of Islam's third holiest shrine, a police spokesman said.

Thousands of Jews meanwhile prayed at the Western Wall, which abuts the site, to observe the holy day marking the anniversary of the destruction of the ancient Jewish temple once situated on the mount.

Police dragged away members of the ultra-nationalist Jewish group, the Temple Mount Faithful, who tried to break through a police barricade barring their entry to the mount's Al Aqsa Mosque complex, the police spokesman said.

The ultra-nationalists, who were to be allowed onto the mount in pairs under police escort, waved flags, shouted slogans and sounded rams horns.

"Bibi why aren't you here with us?" shouted one woman, referring to hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has vowed never to cede any part of Jerusalem to Palestinians. Bibi is his nick-

name.

Israel's high court ruled the Temple Mount Faithful should be allowed to visit the mount but not pray there and police worked out the pairs system. Tourists of all faiths routinely visit the site without any problem.

Palestinian council speaker Ahmad Korei condemned the decision to let the activists onto Al Haram Al Sharif.

"Al Aqsa is an Islamic site and it affects the emotions of every Muslim under the sun," Mr. Korei told reporters after the Palestinian self-rule legislature's weekly meeting in Ramallah.

The Palestinian council delayed discussion of a draft constitution to discuss the Jerusalem issue.

"If Jerusalem is being Judaised, why negotiate?" Mr. Korei said.

"If Israel wants peace, we do too. If they don't, they should stop wasting our time."

Later on Thursday, Jewish settlers burned a Palestinian flag outside the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Jerusalem headquarters known as Orient House. They demanded a halt to PLO activity in Jerusalem.

## Bosnian Muslim gunners fire on Czech peace patrol

SARAJEVO (R) — Two Muslim civilians fired automatic weapons at Czech peacekeeping soldiers on night patrol in northwest Bosnia and were swiftly disarmed without casualties, NATO said on Friday.

The Czechs, members of the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR), came under fire on Thursday night as they drove their armoured combat vehicle in the zone of separation between Muslim and Serb territories, near the village of Memici.

"They heard a series of shots from submachine guns close to the zone...as they approached the place where the fire was coming from, they were directly battered (fired on) from a nearby

house," an IFOR statement said.

"The Czechs got out of their vehicle, surrounded the house and without a single shot disarmed two Muslim civilians, confiscating two sub-machine guns and four magazines with cartridges," it said.

IFOR referred the incident to the U.N.-affiliated international police task force, which helps maintain law-and-order and deter human rights abuses in Bosnia.

The statement did not say whether the assailants were freed or handed over to local police. NATO and IFIT spokesmen were not immediately available for clarification.

Shooting attacks on members of IFOR have been very rare since it deployed last

December.

IFOR separated and demobilised Serb, Croat and Muslim armies without incident and non-NATO weapons are banned from former confrontation zones under a demilitarisation regime.

In another development, a French officer in the NATO peace force in Bosnia has lost a foot and part of a hand in a land mine explosion a few kilometres south of Sarajevo, an alliance spokesman said on Friday.

Lieutenant Jean-Marie Etienne was on patrol on Thursday when he trod on one of the millions of mines left over from Bosnia's 1992-95 war and not yet removed, spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Max Marinier said.

Lt Etienne's left foot was

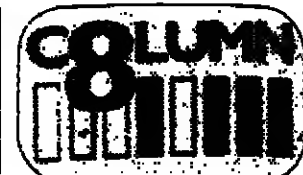
severed and part of his left hand blown off, Lt-Col. Marinier told a news briefing.

The lieutenant underwent surgery at the French military hospital in the Sarajevo suburb of Rajlovac.

Lt Etienne belonged to the 19e Groupe de Chasseurs, a mechanised infantry regiment based in Villigen, Germany.

A few NATO peacekeepers have been killed and dozens wounded in mine or traffic accidents since IFOR arrived last December for a one-year mission.

"This incident serves as a very timely reminder to all of us that mines remain a terrible and disfiguring threat to everyone in Bosnia — military and civilian, irrespective of politics, ethnic origin or nationality," said Lt-Col.



Woman returns Olympic wallet and becomes hero

ATLANTA (R) — Del Brown has become a kind of Olympic hero. She has not won a gold medal, overcome daunting physical challenges or even carried the Olympic torch. But for an Olympic host city worried about its image as an American crime capital, the 36-year-old sales clerk's sense of honesty is a public-relations godsend. Days before the start of the games, Ms. Brown stumbled upon a wallet in the camera store where she works. It contained \$1,020 cash and several documents in Portuguese. After a few minutes, she also discovered an invoice in English from the Olympic equestrian venue and phoned them up. The wallet belonged to Brazilian equestrian Serguei Fofanoff, who was so pleased to get his money and credit cards back that he introduced her to his team mates and gave her a Brazilian Olympic team pin. End of story? Don't bet on it. When Ms. Brown's employer heard what had happened, the company got its public relations consultant to shop the story around to various news organisations in town for the Olympics. The sales-clerk-turned-hero also received formal thanks Wednesday from the Brazilian Olympic Committee, who gave her a new handbag, a clock and personal thanks from the coordinator for Casa Brasil, the committee's home away from home. Reached by telephone at her workplace, Ms. Brown said she was only glad to have been able to help Fofanoff. "I am so happy to be able to do something like that," she said. "This was before the Olympics and he doesn't have any money in this strange land. It's great to be able to do something like that. Praise the Lord praise God."

Athletes keep police on their toes

ATLANTA (R) — Fenders, flashers and flat breakers — these are just some of the alleged complaints against athletes filling police blotter these days in Olympic city. With 10,000 athletes, most of them young, fit and high-spirited, engulfing Atlanta for the games, after-hours activities of a non-sporting variety are keeping police busy. According to city police, a Tunisian boxer was arrested after fondling a female tram driver in the Olympic village. Organising committee press chief Bob Brennan told a news conference the unnamed athlete "allegedly and inappropriately fondled a female tram driver." Mr. Brennan said the boxer was taken into custody but released after the driver declined to press charges.

Last orders in Bavarian beer gardens at 10.30 p.m.

BERLIN (R) — A German Federal Court dashed the hopes of Bavarian beer drinkers Thursday when it upheld a state court's ruling that beer gardens had to stop the oompah music at 10 p.m. and take last orders half an hour later. The Federal Administrative Court, confirming an earlier decision by the Bavarian court, agreed that noise from beer gardens could be considered a kind of environmental pollution that had to be controlled. Bavaria's Administrative Court last year shocked Munich, the beer capital of Germany, by agreeing with a resident who complained one of the city's best-known beer gardens was too noisy.

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